

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Cheers... Pat Butcher and David Miller on the World Athletics Championships... down the hatch... Best buys below decks in the world of sailing... New words... A newly-discovered story by Daisy Ashford on the Pope's visit to Britain... for old... Roy Strong complains about too many repeats on Radio 4... In quires... The 276th year of the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester Cathedral... and places... The pleasures of the Algarve

Summit in Mexico for Reagan

A summit meeting between President Reagan and President de la Madrid of Mexico this weekend will focus on the Central American crisis. Mexico may turn out to have more in common with Washington's policies towards the region than previous statements have suggested. **Page 4**

Kidnap victim tells his story

A wealthy Irish solicitor was recovering at his home after being kidnapped by gunmen and tied to a tree on a deserted military range for 24 hours. He told police he dissuaded the kidnapers from taking his son, aged 14. **Page 3**

Taiwan fraud

The gang said to have swindled Taiwanese factories out of £16m worth of goods with worthless cheques is trying to beat a court order preventing the unloading of the imports. **Page 2**

Sub salvaged

The Soviet Union has secretly salvaged a nuclear-powered submarine which sank in the North Pacific in June, partly to prevent the US from recovering it according to American intelligence. **Page 4**

Shagari priority

President Shagari of Nigeria, fresh from his landslide victory, said his new administration would give priority to the economy and agriculture. **Page 4**

BP sale boost

Higher-than-expected half year earnings of £1.33bn from Shell have pushed up oil share prices, smoothing the way for an early sale of British Petroleum shares by the Government. **Page 13**

Recovery signs

First-half profit figures for two of Britain's big engineering groups reflected signs of recovery. Guest Keen & Nettlefolds increased profits from £3.9m to £5.2m. **Page 13**

Fewer grouse

The grouse season is expected to have a poor start, because of bird diseases and a wet spring, but it should improve next month. **Page 3**

Rabies fine

A West German holidaymaker was fined £400 under anti-rabies regulations for bringing a guinea-pig into Britain. **Page 3**

Baby rescued

A newborn baby boy in a plastic bag was nearly thrown into a rubbish bin at Lake, Isle of Wight, but was discovered when he whimpered and is recovering in hospital.

Gower century

David Gower scored 108 for England yesterday in their first innings of 272 for five on the opening day of the third Test match against New Zealand at Lord's. **Page 18**

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Letters: On "alternative medicine", from Professor P. N. Campbell, and Mr. I. D. Watson; the elderly, from Mr. E. McGraw, and Mr. D. Hobman and others
Leading articles: Lebanon; research councils; Nordic Council
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How Britain could go hungry; a medieval pageant on the moors; why we must stand by Belize
Opening up Heaven's Gate; a film flop makes a comeback
The drug corridor; Friday Page
Looks at the way cut price drugs court Britain

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BL dismisses 13 'infiltrators' at Cowley car plant

By Barrie Clement and Clifford Webb

British Leyland yesterday dismissed 13 alleged political activists said to have lied in job applications in order to infiltrate the shop floor at the company's Cowley assembly plant in Oxfordshire.

The six women and seven men, who plan to appeal today against the decision, are thought by the company to be Trotskyists belonging to the International Marxist Group. It is believed they were informed on by fellow workers on the assembly lines of the new Maestro car, who noticed their unusually good knowledge of union affairs.

The company checked the workers' application forms and found 13 of them contained information regarded as deliberately inaccurate. The 13 were originally suspended under the company's disciplinary procedure.

A further six workers suspected of belonging to the same group are understood still to be working at the plant. Their application forms were in order and the company is proceeding on the basis that only those who gave false information are guilty of breaching company rules. One more alleged activist who is off work because of illness is to face disciplinary procedure.

One of the dismissed staff is a young woman who, in applying for a job as a track worker, declared that she had three O levels and three CSEs. British Leyland says that it discovered

that she had four A levels and a political science degree.

Company administrators also wrote to the referees listed by some of the applicants as previous employers and received genuine-sounding replies. But checks revealed that the references were forged; addresses were private homes where businesses did not operate. Company names given on the application forms were not registered at those addresses, according to a letter which all hourly paid employees will receive today from Mr Doug Dixon, the plant director.

Mr Dixon's letter adds: "This deliberate provision of false information does not represent a genuine mistake. Neither does it represent an innocent attempt to get a job." He said that all 13 had signed statements saying that they accepted that incorrect information could lead to dismissal; almost all of the 13 had admitted giving false information.

The alleged activists had submitted their forms in May last year before starting work later in the year. They were among 1,000 workers required to produce the Maestro car.

BL investigators are understood to have been alert for some time to the activities of a group of Marxists intent on working their way into important trade union positions on the shop floor at Cowley.

Mr Buckle said earlier: "With unemployment at its present level it is not surprising that in their desperation to find work, people give false information."

Search for caves as nuclear dump sites

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

Nuclear waste may have to be dumped underground in Britain after action by three transport unions to stop it being disposed of at sea.

The search for dump sites is being undertaken by the Nuclear Industries Radioactive Waste Executive (Nirex), a wing of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. The location of potential sites will be announced this autumn when the authority will seek planning permission.

A spokesman for the authority said: "The waste exists and something had got to be done with it. If one disposal option is closed we have got to find others."

The "low grade" radioactive material concerned is now being stored in buildings at the authority's sites in Winfrith, Devon, and Harwell, Oxfordshire, and at the Ministry of Defence establishment at Bicester, Oxfordshire.

But the authority argues that it is "more sensible and safer if one disposes of it rather than storing it." Nirex is looking for sites where there are inaccessible underground caverns.

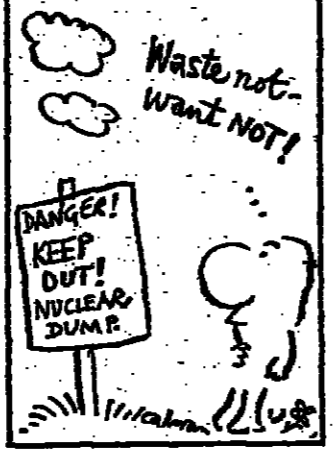
Mr Frederick Fenning, deputy director of Harwell, said that there was a "long-standing" invitation for unions to talk to the authorities.

The waste in question is made up of gloves and clothing and cleaning materials from medical, industrial and defence laboratories. About 90 per cent of its weight consists of steel and concrete packaging.

Some of the material may be tipped into shallow land burial sites which would cover 100 acres and comprise a series of trenches between 6 and 9 metres deep. The most radioactive material would be sandwiched between backfill and two layers of concrete.

General Workers' Union and the National Union of Seamen, the "dump ship" Atlantic Fisher has been lying empty at Burren.

In a letter to *The Times* last Thursday, Mr Jim Slater, the NUS general secretary, argued that the authority and the Government had been seeking to act against the wishes of the London Dumping Convention, a UN-sponsored agency, which regulates the disposal of sea of any material it regards as potentially harmful.



Hattersley rank and file appeal

By John Winder

Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, will next week appeal direct to the rank and file membership of the Labour movement in his attempt to win the leadership of the Labour Party.

In a speech at Leicester on Monday, he is likely to direct his words especially to the members of unions who have been asked to ballot for their choice among the various candidates for leader and deputy leader. Mr Hattersley, like his main rival, Neil Kinnock, MP, is seeking election to either post.

In his speech, Mr Hattersley may be expected to point out that at the general election Labour had urged control on prices, dividends and profits but had not said much about how those profits should be invested.

Mr Hattersley has long been a supporter of a national minimum wage and some in his camp believe that the party's commitment to it in the manifesto was weaker than it might have been, partly because the biggest union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, is opposed to it because it is against any incomes policy.

His appeal to the union membership is seen by his supporters as crucial to his campaign.

A further development in the Labour leadership campaign yesterday was a letter from Mr Neil Kinnock to *Labour Weekly*, published by the Labour Party, strongly supporting consultation of the rank and file membership of constituency Labour parties in arriving at a decision on whom to support in the leadership elections.

He complains in the letter that hints in the Press that he was opposed to a wider franchise had never been backed by evidence.



Honoured for bravery: Mr Peter Gurney (top) and the late Mr Kenneth Howorth.

Bomb disposal men get top award

By Stewart Tendler

A Scotland Yard explosives expert who defused a Provisional IRA bomb in London despite the knowledge that a similar device had killed a colleague minutes before is today awarded a bar to the George Medal he already holds.

Mr Peter Gurney, aged 52, is named in a list of civil gallantry awards published in the *London Gazette*.

The colleague who died, Mr Kenneth Howorth, is awarded a George Medal posthumously.

The list also includes the award of a George Medal to Constable David Browning of the Royal Ulster Constabulary

Entertainment ousts religion on ITV

By David Hewson

Serious Sunday night religious programmes on independent television are to make way for light entertainment in order to enable the commercial channel to compete more evenly with the BBC. The move has incensed many church officials.

In three weeks the programme slot between 6 and 6.30pm, frequently occupied by *LWT's Credo*, will be moved to 2pm on Sundays for an experimental period of a year. The Sunday evening hymn programme at 6.45pm will be unaffected.

Seven years ago, the BBC moved its equivalent serious religious programme, and has been attracting large audiences with its holiday programme and *The Antiques Roadshow* at 6pm on Sundays.

The Rev Donald Reeves, Rector of St James's, Piccadilly, who recently retired from CRAC, said: "There seems to be an enormous loss of confidence among religious broadcasters at the moment. The fact that they cannot make programmes which will stand up to Arthur Negus I find really distressing."

Test cricketer seeks asylum in Britain

Aftab Gul, the former Pakistan test cricketer, said yesterday he had applied for political asylum in Britain because he faced a death sentence on trumped-up charges if he returned home.

Pakistan's military Government said last month that two Sam7 ground-to-air missiles were found in his home in Lahore and accused him of being a member of the clandestine Al-Zulfikar guerrilla group.

Mr Gul, aged 37, a lawyer who played six tests for Pakistan between 1963 and 1971, was in Britain when the Government reported finding the arms cache.

He told a press conference in London that if any missiles were found at his home they were planted there by Government agents. "It is an attempt to frame me." He had never been connected with Al-Zulfikar.

He said the Zia regime was using fabricated charges to victimize his family.

Druze hand over ministers in Jumblatt castle

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon retrieved three of his ministers from the hands of Druze gunmen yesterday at the price of his credibility and a ceasefire that is unlikely to last more than 24 hours.

After a morning of fierce artillery battles around the capital, the Druze militias who had abducted the three men on Wednesday night surrendered them to the Israeli Army in the hallway of Mr Walid Jumblatt's stone castle in the Chouf mountains in conditions of near famine.

There are those in Lebanon who are kidnapped and never live to tell the tale. And there are those who talk long and hard to their heavily-armed captors and then insist that they had never been kidnapped at all.

A third of President Gemayel's Cabinet clearly fell into the second category. Indeed, the three ministers insisted that they had merely been guests at the gloomy castle of Moukhtara.

Their Druze captors, who had earlier demanded the resignation of Mr Gemayel's entire Government - including his secret service chief - in return for the ministers, then claimed that nothing was further from their minds.

The destruction of the Gemayel Government was merely the condition that would have to be met if the Druze were to stop bombarding Beirut airport with missiles. Mr Jum-

blatt himself, comfortably ensconced in Damascus, was unaware that his gunmen had released the prisoners.

Lebanese Government officials subsequently claimed that the Israelis had themselves initially refused to free the men unless they agreed to have their photographs taken next to some Israeli officers, a condition which the ministers are said to have rejected.

They eventually returned to Beirut in the company of Mrs Kholia Arsalan, a member of the Jumblatt clan but the wife of Mr Jumblatt's rival among the Druze, escorted by armed Lebanese security police.

The three men - Mr Adel Hamiyeh, Minister of Finance; Mr Pierre Khoury, Minister of Public Works; and Mr Adnan Mrowa, Minister of Labour - had called on Wednesday night at the village of Baadaran to discuss the nine months of Druze-Christian fighting with Shaikh Muhammad Abu Shakra, a Druze spiritual leader.

They were abducted at gunpoint outside his home and taken to Moukhtara - "it was suggested that he went there for the night", one of the ministers ventured discreetly - and it was the white-bearded prelate himself who negotiated their release from the castle yesterday.

Israeli troops and plain clothes security agents of Shin Bet - all wearing dark glasses - escorted the ministers from the castle and then placed half-track Continued on back page, col 3

Chad admits fall of Faya-Largeau

Njamena (AP, AFP) - The Chad Government of President Hissene Habre yesterday admitted that the strategic northern outpost of Faya-Largeau had fallen to Libyan troops and rebels backed by waves of jet bombers, Soviet-supplied heavy artillery and T-62 tanks.

Western military sources, with access to satellite reconnaissance information from the combat zone, said Faya-Largeau fell at midday on Wednesday to the first unopposed intervention of Libyan troops in the latest phase of Chad's 19-year civil war.

The Information Minister, Mr Soumaila Mahamat, said Government forces had set up defensive positions 4.5 miles west and 11 miles east of the settlement, which controls all routes from Libya to the capital, Njamena.

The Western sources, insisting on anonymity, said the bulk of Mr Habre's estimated 5,000-man Army had been isolated in the outpost 500 miles north of Njamena almost since it was captured from Libyan-supported rebels on July 30.

A Chadian Embassy spokes-

man in Paris said Mr Habre's soldiers had departed in small groups to "limit losses from raids by the Libyan Air Force". He said the Government troops had not suffered heavy casualties and that more than 50 Libyan aircraft were operating in the region.

The Western sources in Njamena said most of the government troops scattered into the surrounding palm grove and desert after the collapse of all resistance. The American-supplied Redeye surface-to-air missiles were taken out Faya-Largeau before it was lost.

During the ill-matched battle, other government troops recaptured the outpost of Oum Chalouba, 200 miles further west, from forces loyal to former President Goukouni Oueddei.

A source in Njamena said Libyan fighter-bombers pursued the Government forces to the Chicha Wells, 120 miles south of Faya-Largeau in the direction of Koro-Toro. The Libyan planes yesterday also bombed Oum Chalouba. Continued on back page, col 6

Mermaid Theatre is put on the market

By Christopher Warman Arts Correspondent

The Mermaid Theatre, founded by Lord Miles more than 20 years ago, has been put up for sale by the theatre's trustees after failing to solve the financial difficulties which have beset it since reopening in refurbished premises in Puddle Dock, Blackfriars, in 1981.

Lord Miles said last night that he was distressed at the decision and criticised the Corporation of the City of London for not providing more help. He said that over the whole period the corporation had given an average of £5,000 a year, ranging from £1,000 at the beginning to £8,000.

Lord Miles said he still had hopes that the theatre might be saved but he believed his connection with the Mermaid had ended.

"There is no room for my wife and me now. The projections are broader and there is no creative energy there. It is not the sort of theatre I would want to confine in.



Final curtain: Lord Miles outside the refurbished Mermaid Theatre.

The Mermaid's reopening production, *Eastward Ho*, proved a disaster and lost £80,000, while an appeal for £1m to put the theatre on a solid financial basis raised about £350,000.

Recently the theatre has had to bring in productions, including *Children of a Lesser God*

and *Traford Taxi*. These succeeded in keeping the theatre open after a period of "darkness" but have made little impact on its deficit.

Lord Miles and his wife invested £10,000 in one production and cut their salaries to save costs.

He is at present appearing at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, in *The Cherry Orchard*, which is scheduled to come to the West End in the autumn.

Traford Taxi is to close on August 20, when the theatre will be temporarily let to Riverside Studios for a production of the Engage O'Neill play, *Moon for the Misbegotten*.

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

Sharp rise in rescues at seaside

Coastguards between Sussex and north Cornwall have reported 33 per cent rise in rescue incidents this summer. More holidaymakers and the growing popularity of windsurfing were blamed yesterday.

The figures relate to the period since June 1 in the Falmouth search and rescue region, which stretches from Selsey Bill, near Chichester, to Tintagel.

As strong offshore winds continued to blow, holidaymakers on the South coast were warned yesterday not to use inflatable in the sea. Two people have drowned.

The body of Nigel Ellis, aged 53, of North Harrow, Middlesex, was recovered yesterday from the sea off Eastbourne.

Shortly afterwards the alarm was raised for Neil Lawrence, aged 10, of Aylesbury, who was on an airbed off Littlehampton, Sussex. An inshore rescue boat later recovered his body.

Police in Scotland warned tourists yesterday of the dangers of swimming in lochs, as a search went on for a youth seen to disappear below the surface of Loch Lomond.

Dismissal threat to 200 workers

Strikers supporting 400 dismissed electricians at Shell/Eso's £700m petrochemical complex at Mossburn, in Fife, were told in a management letter yesterday that they will be dismissed unless normal working is resumed.

The 400 workers employed by Mathew Hall Engineering on Shell's gas liquids fractionation plant were dismissed last Wednesday after nine days of unofficial strike over working conditions and 200 more employed by Lummus at the site came out in support.

Policing warning to Brittan

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, was given a warning yesterday by Labour councillors representing metropolitan areas that the proposed abolition of metropolitan counties would be harmed by the proposed abolition of metropolitan counties.

A delegation to the Home Office from the Association of Metropolitan Authorities demanded an independent study before the Government abolishes the councils.

Protest over council homes

The left-wing labour administration in Liverpool was criticized yesterday by traditional Labour voters in the city over its policy of building 2,000 homes to rent, some of them in private housing schemes.

People who bought their homes on the Walton Hall Park Estate protested at housing committee meeting over a decision to build 67 council houses next door.

17,500 pirated videos seized

More than 17,500 illegal video tapes, including 200 master copies, have been seized this year by investigators from the Federation Against Copyright Theft (FACT).

Several important criminal actions are pending in England and Scotland, according to Mr Peter Duffy, FACT's director of investigations. They are the result of collaboration between FACT, the police and local authority trading standards departments.

Pigeon race ban

Pigeon racing has been banned for at least three weeks in South Wales after an outbreak of poultry disease. Three cases of paratyphoid disease have been reported in pigeons in Llanelli, Dyfed.

M1 tanker blaze

Firemen, battling for an hour yesterday, prevented a big explosion on the M1, near Luton, Bedfordshire after a tanker full of laden with 26,000 gallons of petrol burst into flames.

Chinese gang finds way to beat shipping injunction

By John Lawless

A Chinese gang alleged to have swindled Taiwanese factories out of \$25m (£16m) worth of goods by shipping them to Britain on the strength of cheques which then "bounced" yesterday switched tactics in an attempt to beat a High Court injunction.

The injunction, as reported in *The Times* yesterday prevents shipping lines from handing over the container loads of goods.

"It now appears that they are trying to sell off the shipping documents to British retailers," Mr Eric Ellen, director of the London-based International Maritime Bureau, said. The bureau is co-ordinating the investigation into the alleged fraud.

"We now know that more than one Chinese man is trying to claim the containers in Britain, although we do not know how many," Mr Ellen said.

"We have had no end of calls as a result of *The Times* story. It is clear that they are now trying to off-load to goods by selling the documents, and the message to British shopkeepers must be 'Beware the bargain'," he said.

Mr Ellen, formerly Chief Constable of the Port of London Authority police, has sent a report to the Director of Public Prosecutions. The legal situation is extremely complicated, he said. Under British law, the holder of the shipping documents (bills of lading) are the legal holders of the goods. It is only the week-

long injunction, granted by Mr Justice Popplewell in the Queens Bench Division of the Commercial Court of the High Court on Wednesday, which is stopping the gang from collecting them.

Mr Raveen Arora, the Taiwanese manufacturers' representative who was granted the injunction, yesterday returned to Taiwan.

"I will be back in the middle of next week with sworn statements from my clients saying that the cheques with which they were paid were worthless. I hope they will enable the British police to take action", he said.

He claimed that his life had been threatened and "things are getting rather hot".

Although action in Britain has been taken much more swiftly than elsewhere in Europe and in the United States, there are containers are thought to have been collected, the activities of what are now said to be several Chinese men acting in Britain have been widespread.

When the injunction came into force, it was known that one container, carrying \$30,000 worth of toys, had been collected. These have now started to appear in shops in Blackpool.

"But we have also traced two more containers that were collected from the inland container depot at Stratford, east London," Mr Ellen said.

Man tried to claim five consignments

By a Staff Reporter

As officials of the international Maritime Bureau were telephoning shipping lines from their offices in Barking, east London, to warn them not to hand over containers of unpaid goods from Taiwan, the man said to have masterminded the illegal claim was calling at a docks office near by, trying to claim five loads.

Mr Raveen Arora, the representative of Taiwanese factory-owners, said yesterday: "He was trying to pick up shipments of toys garments and telephones worth \$100,000."

The director of the Scandutch shipping line, who met the Chinese man named in Wednesday's High Court injunction, was Mr Graham Johnson. The incident happened about one hour after Scandutch had been given notice of the injunction.

"I think it was the first inkling he had that he could not take possession of the consignments", Mr Johnson said yesterday.

"He was a gentleman from the Far East, although I could

£400 rabies fine over guinea-pig

A West German holiday-maker was fined £400 by magistrates at Bath yesterday under anti-rabies regulations. A pet guinea-pig he and his family had brought into Britain through Dover was destroyed.

For the prosecution, Mr Charles Kinchin, an Avon trading standards officer, said West Germany had the second highest number of rabies cases in the world last year, with more than 6,500 reported.

Wolfgang Kohlen, a computer specialist aged 35, from Mönchengladbach, pleaded guilty to importing the animal.

The count was told he and his wife and two children had travelled in Europe with their pet, Mecki.

The police were called when tourists saw the animal in a cage outside their caravan near Bath.

Kohlen told the magistrates through an interpreter: "We had seen no anti-rabies posters in Germany and could not understand the English word for rabies. We didn't think we came on a rabies area and we made no attempt to hide the animal."

Prisoners at Albany guilty of mutiny

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Twelve prisoners from Albany north security prison on the Isle of Wight have been found guilty of mutiny by the jail's board of visitors.

They are among 15 prisoners to be punished for offences committed during a riot in May. Another four were found not guilty of mutiny.

Six prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs prison, London, have been found guilty of creating a disturbance there in June.

Thirty-one prisoners at Albany were charged, 28 with mutiny. Two panels from the Albany Board of Visitors, with two magistrates on each, have been touring prisons to which Albany's alleged offenders have been sent. Some remain in Albany; the others have gone to Winchester, Manchester, Wandsworth, Wormwood Scrubs and Birmingham.

The Prison Department will not give details of punishments until the hearings are completed.

Held in private, the cases have revived a long-standing controversy about the role of boards of visitors in hearing charges against prisoners. Penal

Protection for press criticized

Journalists should not receive special protection from police powers to search for confidential information when investigating serious crime, the Media Law Group said yesterday.

The group, set up by the British Executive of the International Press Institute, has sent its comments on "undesirable aspects" of the Government's Police and Criminal Evidence Bill to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The Bill, which aroused considerable controversy in the last Parliament and is to be reintroduced, proposes protecting journalists against seizure of confidential information.

However, the group said that special treatment for journalists would violate a fundamental element in the philosophy of the British Press and distance journalists from readers.

Steel veto attacked by London Liberals

One of the strongest of the Liberal organizations, the London region, has decided to back moves at the annual Liberal Assembly next month to get rid of the leader of the party's veto on the contents of election manifestos.

The region's backing for a motion by the Young Liberals and Daventry local association, which has the support of other constituencies, was carried by such a large majority at the regional annual meeting that no count was required.

Officials of the London Liberals said all backers of the move emphasized that it is not an "anti-Steel" motion.

Even so, Mr David Steel is known to be deeply opposed to any such proposal and there is little doubt that many Liberals will be hard to convince that it is not directed against Mr Steel if he opposed it at the assembly in Harrogate.

Some supporters of the move take the line that the leader is a member of the standing committee which draws up the manifesto and if he is opposed to any item in it, then it has little chance of featuring in the final draft.

Proponents of the move say that it will strengthen the Leader's position because he would not then be saddled with sole blame for any manifesto item which proved unpopular with a section of the party.

Mr Colin Darracott, chairman of the London Liberals, said: "This is a point of principle, not an anti-Steel, still less an anti-Steel move. This is a grass-roots party."

The Liberal Party did not have its own manifesto at the last election, but fought on a joint programme agreed by a committee of Liberals and Social Democrats. Mr Steel did not have a veto on that. The London region embraces 84 constituencies.

The London Liberal Region has also decided to support the preservation of the Greater London Council.

The region hopes that Mr Ken Livingstone, Labour leader of the GLC, and Mr Alan Greengrass, leader of the Conservatives on the council, may visit the "fringe" of the Liberal Assembly to discuss moves to save the council, although there is some doubt about the Conservative leader accepting the invitation.

£40m plan to rebuild hotel

A £40m plan to rebuild the four-star North British Hotel in Edinburgh was announced yesterday.

The hotel is not commercially viable in its present form, Mr Peter Tyrie, managing director of its owners, Glencroft Hotels, said.

GLC joins fight over green belt

The Labour-controlled Greater London Council yesterday joined up with the solidly Conservative Home Counties to prevent the Government crossing the green belt around London in the interests of private house-builders.

Mr George Nicholson, chairman of the GLC planning committee, complained of "an insidious tie-up" between the house builders and the Government.

"Saving the green belt is not just of concern to those lucky enough to live in the leafy suburbs. It is also vital to people in inner London who rely on such countryside near by for a welcome break from the pressures of inner city life."

Mr Nicholson, who identified himself as the only socialist on the Standing Conference of South East Planning Authorities, promised a bipartisan approach to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to urge him to rewrite the recently issued draft circular on the release of green belt land for development.

"London green belt is one of the major success stories of British town planning", Mr Nicholson told a press conference. He circulated extracts from articles in *The Times* of 1939 praising the role of the London County Council in protecting the greenery around the capital.

"It is the envy of many less fortunate sprawling world cities. Whatever the Government's assurances, once you start making exceptions, they can so easily become the rule and open the door for a flood of development."

Housing benefit review demanded by Labour

An urgent review in to how the new housing benefit scheme could be simplified was demanded last night by Mr Brynmor John, MP, Labour spokesman on social security, who said that in creating the scheme the Government had perpetrated an enormous blunder.

"In large parts of the country, administration of the scheme has simply broken down. Many thousands of tenants are going without the help to which they are entitled and are falling into rent arrears as a result."

Mr John said that local council staff were working at full capacity but finding the task beyond them. For the staff and claimants the new scheme was a nightmare.

The scheme was introduced fully in April and about 80 per cent of local authorities have completed the transfer, so that 95 per cent of claimants receive benefit under the new scheme.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, has defended the scheme and suggested that some problems were transferring 7,000,000 households were inevitable.

Transitional arrangements to continue supplementary benefit

Top scientist to review funding of research

The Government has asked Sir Ronald Mason, former chief scientist at the Ministry of Defence, to review the funding of scientific research in Britain.

The review will concentrate on the balance between research commissioned by government departments and that funded by the five research councils and the University Grants Committee.

Sir Ronald, who is professor of chemistry at Sussex University, is conducting a one-man inquiry and he plans to deliver his recommendations to Sir David Phillips, chairman of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, by October.

But his terms of reference are wide, and the review could signify a shake-up in the present structure of civil science, particularly the "customer-contractor" relationship between ministries and research councils, which was



Sir Ronald Mason: One-man inquiry instituted after the Rothschild report 12 years ago. Leading article, page 9

Pop fans at shot man's funeral

Thousands of teenage friends and neighbours flooded on to the streets of Belfast's Catholic Turf Lodge district yesterday to walk behind a coffin carrying Mr Thomas Reilly, aged 22, who was shot dead on Tuesday evening.

Representatives of two English pop bands - Duran Duran and Bananarama - joined the procession as a mark of respect for the young man, who had worked as a road manager for their groups in England.

Mr Reilly's oldest brother, Jim Reilly, himself a musician, flew back from an engagement in the United States to help to carry the coffin.

The funeral passed the burnt-out hulks of lorries, cars and mechanical diggers which had earlier been hijacked and set on fire.

At the funeral, the parish priest, Father Kevin Donnelly, spoke of Mr Reilly's dedication to the youth of his community. He said: "People have come from far and near, and from all walks of life, to share in the grief of Thomas's tragic and unwarranted death that weighs so heavily on us all."

After the funeral, one of the area's biggest since the hunger strike processions three years ago, the crowd tramped through the litter-strewn streets of Turf Lodge, which has experienced rioting and fire-bombing since Mr Reilly's death.

An 18-year-old British soldier is in custody accused of Mr Reilly's murder.

A Belfast man was accused yesterday of murdering three Catholics.

William Cowan, aged 23, is charged with murdering a Mr Joseph Donegan aged 47, a father of seven, last October, a 32-year-old milkman, Mr Trevor Close, in May, and 19-year-old Mr Stephen Murphy in November 1981, and membership of the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force. He was remanded in custody until next Friday.

Running girl clue in murder hunt

Leicestershire police said yesterday that a motorist may have seen Caroline Hogg, aged five, trying to run away from her killer the day after she was abducted from near her Edinburgh home.

The motorist, from Derbyshire, who has not been named came forward after seeing an artist's impressions of a man issued last week by Lothian and Borders police. However, he said that the man was not wearing glasses.

The incident occurred at a lay-by on the A444 at Tycroscot, Leicestershire, on July 9. The girl's body was discovered at the next lay-by, about half a mile south, on July 18.

The police said that the motorist thought it appeared that the girl was trying to run away from the man. He drove on because he believed it was a father and daughter playing tag.

But the man could not recall the make or colour of the car, which was parked at an angle.

The police said it was a vital lead and appealed to any motorist who saw anything similar to come forward at once. It could have been a father playing with his daughter, but it was essential to clarify the incident as soon as possible.

A girl looking frightened was seen in a car near Coldstream in the Borders on the night that Caroline Hogg disappeared. The driver was on the wrong side of the road and going south from Edinburgh. The child was seen by a motorist who stopped to remonstrate.

The girl left a fun fair near her home at Portobello with a scruffy-looking man wearing glasses. Police assume that the man they are looking for may not always wear spectacles.

Detectives hunting the murderer of Susan Renhard, aged 21, an art student, at Castleton, Derbyshire, appeared yesterday to a family of eight to contact them (the Press Association reports).

The police have established that the family of four or five adults and some children, were sitting at the bottom of Cave Dale around the time of the murder on June 27.

The Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act 1926

Notice is hereby given that The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has applied to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, for the making of an Order in Council under Sub-sections (1) and (2) of Section 1 of the Chartered Associations (Protection of Names and Uniforms) Act 1926 to protect the name of the Society and the following names, designations and badges used by the Society in pursuance of its Royal Charter and Supplemental Royal Charters, that is to say:-

- The name "THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN"
- The abbreviation "NSPCC"
- The name "NSPCC Young League"
- A badge depicting the letters "NSPCC" adjacent to the hand of an adult grasping the hand of a child.
- An oval shaped badge worn without uniform with irregular edges depicting the Scales of Justice, surrounded by the words "The Prevention of Cruelty to Children" and surmounted by a coronet.
- An oval shaped badge, worn without uniform, with regular edges depicting the letters "NSPCC" adjacent to the hand of an adult grasping the hand of a child.

Any objection to the application by any person or society affected or likely to be affected by the Order may be made in writing to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Room 331, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1N 9AT by not later than 12th Sept. 1983, specifying fully the grounds for the objection.

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Irish solicitor describes 25-hour ordeal tied to a tree by kidnappers

From Richard Ford, Enniskerry, co Wicklow

A wealthy solicitor was recovering at his home in the co Wicklow hills yesterday after being kidnapped for 25 hours and tied to a tree on a disused military range.

He was found early yesterday after a telephone call to his home. A huge police operation while he was missing had involved a press blackout, monitoring of telephone calls and surveillance of his 40-acre estate. An £50,000 ransom had been demanded.

Mr William Somerville, aged 45, a Protestant partner in one of Dublin's leading firms of solicitors, was taken from his home at Enniskerry after persuading the masked gunmen not to take his eldest son James, aged 14, as a hostage, which had been their original intention.

He described yesterday how he was driven away with a bag over his head on Tuesday night by a gunman wearing camouflage, a stocking mask and bandolier.

He was first driven to woods near by and was taken to the military range, five miles from his home, where his arms and legs were tied before he was bound to the tree.

He received no food during his ordeal and said that he was watched by people in the woods.

Mr Somerville said that his worst moments were during the second night. "I was just cold and very tired. I did not know what was happening and I was thinking about other things", he said.

Mrs Manon Somerville said that she had feared for her husband's life because one of

the gunmen had said: "You know who we are. You know what happens to informers."

The police said that no ransom had been paid and Mr Somerville said: "I would not have agreed to any ransom being paid: I do not know where it would have come from."

The kidnapping began shortly after Mr and Mrs Somerville went out, when a masked man who had been hiding in the bushes surprised James as he fed two dogs.

The man put a sawn-off shotgun to the boy's head and while his two younger brothers Charles and Edward were upstairs asleep the man demanded to see the security system of the house.

"I was frightened but he was quite nice and gave me a glass of milk", James said.

When they returned Mr and Mrs Somerville were confronted by the man, speaking with a Northern Ireland accent, who locked them in their cellar after making his ransom demand.

Mrs Somerville pleaded "as any mother would have done" to take her son's place. It was finally agreed that her husband would be taken instead.

She said that she only saw one man but had the impression that someone else was outside.

After the police were contacted Special Branch officers were posted in the house and a series of telephone calls were made and monitored. At 11pm on Wednesday a call was made to the house with a message saying where Mr Somerville could be found.

His brother-in-law collected him, accompanied by armed

police, and the family was reunited at 1am yesterday, after Mrs Somerville had been placed under sedation.

Earlier in the day the police had stopped a man driving a car in Bray not far from the Somervilles' home. He was still being questioned in Dublin yesterday. A search is being made for a man thought to be involved in the abduction.

The police do not think that there was any paramilitary involvement in the abduction, which happened only days after they had foiled a Provisional IRA attempt to kidnap Mr Cullen Weston, a wealthy Canadian businessman, from his home 10 miles away.

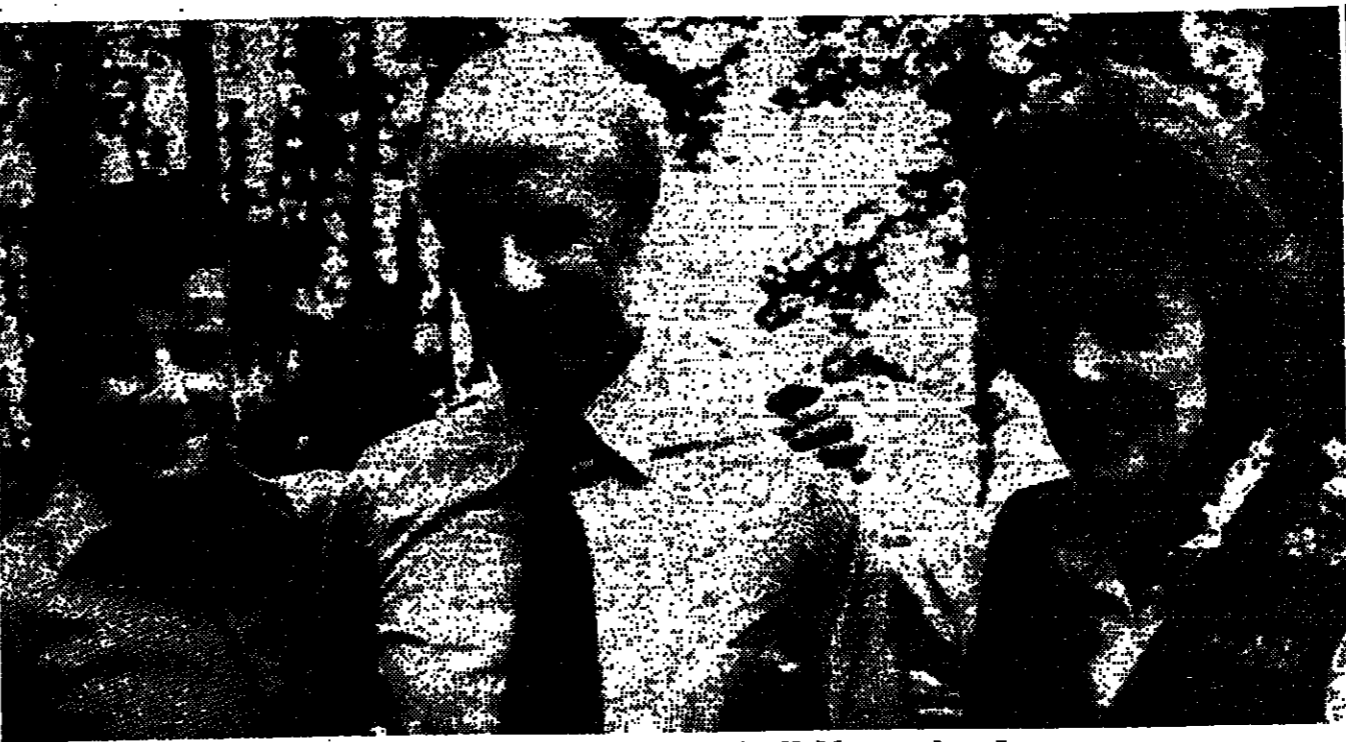
Mr Somerville could think of no reason why he should have been picked out as a target, although his undoubted wealth could be one factor. He was also vulnerable as a man with a young family.

The family speaks with an educated English accent and the three children go to school in England.

As a solicitor Mr Somerville specializes in personal taxation and tax planning. The practice in which he is a partner deals with civil and commercial rather than criminal law.

Educated at a leading Protestant boarding school and Trinity College, Dublin, Mr Somerville worked with the British Civil Service in Kenya before returning to Dublin, where he is a leading member of the Church of Ireland.

He has cattle and breeds Arab horses. He has denied that he or his firm of solicitors had any links with the Royal Family.



Mr Somerville, reunited yesterday with his wife Manon and son James.

Wombnoise on tape lulls babies to sleep

By a Staff Reporter

Sleepless nights may be a thing of the past for new parents as a result of tests at a Sheffield hospital using a special tape recording of sounds of the womb.

It has been proved, during a six-week experiment with 27 babies, that the tape is more effective than patting, rocking, stroking or talking.

The technique was developed by five Japanese doctors, who decided to find out why so many infants become restless, driving their parents to desperation. It was, apparently, because babies miss the soothing noises of the womb.

Tiny microphones were placed in the womb, a swishing sound like blood rushing through veins was produced and babies were quickly lulled to sleep in large numbers, much to their parents' relief.

Senior Nursing Officer Patricia Callis, of the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield, was delighted yesterday when one baby went obediently off to sleep, soothed by the tape, for a BBC television programme.

"It's wonderful", she said. "The majority of babies go off to sleep within five minutes, but it ranges from one minute to 15."

"The tape has 25 minutes of the sounds on each side. It came out on top of all other methods we tried. The only time it doesn't work is when they need feeding."

"Even the mothers find the tape soothes them. One red-head who was there during the trials said she wished she could get hold of one so that she could get off to sleep herself."

The hospital now has two of the tapes, one for each of its post-natal units. It thinks they could be a boon in cases of child abuse.

Tests first showed in the 1960s that babies who go to sleep faster to the recorded noise of a human heartbeat or similar sound.

Dr Harold Gamsa, consultant paediatrician to King's College Hospital, London, recalled experiments performed six or seven years ago. "We found we had to play the tape very loudly in order to have any great effect - the staff didn't particularly enjoy it", he said. "Things may have improved since then."

Inglorious start for grouse season

By Stephen Goodwin

The opening of the grouse season seems likely to produce more action off the moors than provide satisfactory sport for game payers up to £400 a day.

Although the British Field Sports Society describes prospects as variable, most other authorities expect a poor start to the season, with an improvement next month.

The wet spring disrupted nesting and there was also a great deal of disease. Some birds reared second broods, but the young are still very small.

Three grouse moors in the Peak National Park plan to open today, instead of the usual six, to give stocks time to recover. Several estates in Scotland have cancelled their let shooting and the Saudi royal family are among the foreigners to call off shooting holidays.

The estate agents Strutt and Parker, the biggest British agents for sporting lets, consider themselves fortunate in not having anything booked for the early days of the season. "If we had let's I could well have expected cancellations. The birds might well not be of a decent size to shoot."

Five days grouse-shooting with accommodation can cost a team of eight guns up to £20,000.

Reforms proposed on meat labelling laws

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Government made a second attempt yesterday to win support for sweeping reforms of the meat labelling laws. If its plans are accepted, many of the brown discs now labelled simply as "burgers" would have to be called "economy burgers" to indicate that they contained comparatively little meat.

Packets of slices now described simply as "ham" would have to indicate how much water had been injected into the meat.

The proposed new rules are a response to recommendations made by a food study group in 1980. If accepted they will take effect for more than two years.

Mr John Bamford, head of food standards of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in a letter to members of voluntary organizations for sale on stalls would have to meet the law.

Under present rules it is legal to call the product a burger if it contains less meat than that. The proposed new rules say that a dish with between 60 and 79 per cent meat must be called an economy burger. Butchers who sell loose burgers in their shops would be required to display a label showing both the price and the percentage of meat in them.

Fees made at home by members of voluntary organizations for sale on stalls would have to meet the law.

Three big hotel groups, Trust House Forte, Thistle Hotels and Stakis Hotels, are engaged in a race to bring grouse from their hotels in Aviemore to the groups' hotels in Central London.

But it will also be on the board at Tubby Clark's transport café on the A1 near Biggleswade. Grouse with chips, baked beans and bread and butter, followed by pudding, and a mug of tea will cost £1.50.

Irate woman bowls over batsman

A woman marched on to a cricket pitch yesterday demanding an apology from opening batsman Robin Smith who had just hit the ball through the window of her flat overlooking the ground.

Mrs Iris Clarke, aged 62, refused to give back the ball and a quarrel erupted in front of spectators at the match between the Hampshire Second XI and a Southern League side on Hampshire's county ground in Southampton.

Mrs Clarke said: "They told me I was holding up their game. I said that if they could break my windows I could spoil their silly cricket. That seemed to stump them for a moment."

"They were all so smug about it. I didn't think it was funny at all."

A Hampshire Cricket Club spokesman said: "We will not pay for damage of this kind as the flats have an insurance policy."

Mrs Clarke vowed: "They are not getting their ball back."

Equality urged for male prostitutes

Homosexual impersonating should no longer be punishable by imprisonment, the criminal law committee of the Law Society has recommended.

Women are no longer imprisoned for soliciting and the committee urges in a report published yesterday that homosexual and heterosexual prostitutes should be treated the same.

The report of the solicitor's committee is a response to a review of the law on prostitution and related offences by the Criminal Law Revision Committee (CLRC).

The solicitors approve of a CLRC suggestion that the law should no longer refer to brothels. This would have "the distinct advantage of avoiding arguments about what does and what does not constitute the brothel". No offence would be committed where the premises were used for prostitution by not more than two prostitutes having their home there.

The Law Society committee agrees that there should be a new offence to deal with "kerb crawlers". But it opposes a much wider offence to catch all those who accost women for sex in public, in case an "important boyfriend" fell into the net.

At present men who ask women for sexual intercourse from their cars are not committing an offence. The CLRC proposes that it should be illegal to accost a woman from a car for sexual purposes, so as to put her in fear or "cause her annoyance", or to accost her for prostitution.

The solicitors also suggest "casual" prostitutes - probably driven to the streets by poverty - should be treated differently from the "professional" through the system of giving cautions. The aim would be to encourage the "casual" to give up prostitution.

● The Department of Health is to advise homosexuals and other people at risk from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) not to give blood.

There is growing concern that the fatal illness, first noted among American homosexuals, could be transmitted through blood transfusions to people otherwise not at risk.

The advice will be contained in leaflets now being prepared at the Health Department for distribution to blood donor centres.

One doctor in charge of a regional blood-transfusion centre said last night that the pamphlet would describe what Aids was and list the high-risk groups: homosexuals, particularly those with more than one partner; drug addicts who inject themselves with drugs into a vein; and partners of people who have Aids.

There have been 14 cases of Aids in Britain so far. Five victims have died. One of the sufferers is a haemophilic who would have received large quantities of a form of donated blood.

TV jingles warning to advertisers

By Kenneth Gosling

Teachers and parents worried about slang and bad grammar in television commercials can take comfort today from the fact that the Independent Broadcasting Authority is also concerned.

Jingles like the Milk Marketing Board's "Gotta lotta bottle" tend to be taken up and chanted by children; and the IBA's advertising control division says it is a matter for advertisers to look at, although the authority is not proposing to reject commercials on those grounds alone.

The matter has come to ahead with the publication of last month's summary of comments and complaints to the IBA about television and radio commercials.

The IBA says it gets many complaints about the possible effect of jingles on children's speech, but maintains there is no evidence to suggest that it has long-term effects. "But it is a matter which should seriously be considered by advertisers and agencies."

Mr Harry Theobalds, the authority's head of advertising control, said "You could equally argue the same thing about material in programmes."

Most of the 24 complaints last month were from viewers and listeners commenting on *The Mail on Sunday's* series on the Yorkshire Ripper case by Mr Ronald Gregory.

The IBA says: "We noted the fairly large number of objections to this advertising and we acknowledge the force of the argument about offensiveness to public feeling. We also believe it was a mistake for the hoax tapes to be included in the commercial."

Inquest opens on Arne case man

An inquest was opened at Westminster yesterday on the man wanted by police over the killing of Mr Peter Arne, the actor.

Signor Giuseppe Perusi, a 32-year-old teacher of Verona, Italy, was identified from photographs shown to his friend, Signorina Daniela Saoncella, who gave an address in South Kensington, London. Signor Perusi was found by river police at Wandsworth on August 4. The inquest was adjourned until September 7.

Fine on rape victim for carrying knife

From Our Correspondent Leeds

A rape victim was fined £150 yesterday for carrying a flick knife which she claimed was for self-defence. Helena Cunningham, aged 21, who has been attacked twice in the last year, received the fine after a judge told her that a jury had decided that on the day in question she had the knife for an offensive purpose.

As she left Leeds Crown Court surrounded by 60 women demonstrators she said: "I am very pleased that I was not jailed. I think that now I will have to put up with the threat of being attacked or raped again."

Yesterday the protesters, some from the group called Women Against Violence Against Women, gathered outside the court to wait for the sentence on Cunningham, of Mexborough, Avenue, Leeds, which had been deferred for six months so that she could complete a sociology degree at Leeds university.



Helena Cunningham in Leeds yesterday

Yesterday the court was told by Miss Gillian Whitecar, for the prosecution, that the knife was found when Cunningham and another woman were arrested outside the Odeon Cinema in Leeds while making a CNP protest.

Miss Celia Groves, for the defence, said that Cunningham had been raped and attacked twice. She said: "This young woman has that knife purely for her own protection."

Murder charge

Dr Keith Robinson of Tennyson Road, Worthing, was remanded in custody by Worthing magistrates yesterday charged with murdering Mrs Margaret Monnier, also aged 63, of Warwick Gardens, Worthing, on Tuesday.

Beer honours Himalaya run

Richard and Adrian Crane, the Cumbrian brothers who ran 2,000 miles over the Himalayas and have raised more than £27,000 for charity, are to have a special beer launched in their honour.

Jennings Brothers of Cocker-mouth, will donate the profits on more than 18,000 bottles of "Marathon Ale" to the same charity, Intermediate Technology Development, which supplies simple tools to Third World countries.

Hang gliding helper killed

A man aged 19 who was killed in a 200ft fall at a Lake District beauty spot on Wednesday night had been helping a friend to hang-glide, police said yesterday.

Mr Jonathan White, of Stainbeck Road, Leeds, was on Walla Crag in Borrowdale, helping Mr Keiron Tew, of Buxton Oval, Leeds, to take off when the hang-glider seemed to veer back and Mr White slipped off the cliff top.

Bone boy better

Doctors at the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, Surrey, were "very pleased" yesterday with the progress of Simon Jenkins, aged two, the youngest patient to receive a bone marrow transplant. They will now in a week if the operation has succeeded.

Young 'still expect traditional marriage'

By Richard Dowden

Marriage is adapting rather than changing radically, according to Miss Catherine Guy of the National Guidance Council.

In a pamphlet published today she says: "In many respects marriage is still the same as it was years ago."

Her findings are based on material from discussion groups, personal experience and surveys collected by marriage guidance counsellors in 1981.

They suggest that almost all young people want to get married, and most are prepared to accept cohabitation only as a preliminary to marriage.

More girls than boys expect marriage to be permanent and almost three quarters of young people expect faithfulness from their partners.

Most young people expect to have children in marriage; despite a general agreement that men and women should share housework, when questioned in detail, men were less willing to do jobs like changing and washing nappies;

A very high proportion of young unmarried people wanted a church wedding though they were not predominantly churchgoing. Over half the weddings in Britain are civil.

Miss Guy says that unemployment and the changing roles of men and women will be key factors in determining the future of marriage.

Asking about Marriage (Catherine Guy. Available from NMGC Bookshop, Little Church Street, Rugby CV21 3AP. £2.50 plus 25p postage).

18.00 HRS

31 AUGUST '83

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Reagan to hold weekend summit in Mexico on crisis in his backyard

From John Carlin, Mexico City

President Reagan and President Miguel de la Madrid are due to meet on Sunday in La Paz, in the Mexican peninsula of Baja California. According to both Mexican and American officials, bilateral issues will take a back seat to the potentially far-reaching conflicts in Central America.

The expected presence of Mr George Shultz, American Secretary of State, Mr Langhorne Motley, the Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, and Señor Bernardo Sepúlveda, the Mexican Foreign Minister and guiding light of the Contadora peace initiative, underlines the importance that will be given to Central America.

There is speculation in both American and Mexican news that the presidential plaudits that will no doubt conclude the meeting will mask what in reality will prove to have been a lead-on clash.

A month ago President de la Madrid called an urgent meeting in Cancun of the Presidents of the four countries which make up the Contadora group, Colombia, Venezuela, Panama and Mexico.

At the end of that meeting, the Contadora Presidents issued a joint statement, "the Cancun Declaration for Peace in Central America", in which they were careful to avoid any direct reference to the countries involved in the regional conflict.

Nevertheless, most analysts interpreted the declaration as, among other things, a criticism of the United States' However, an announcement by Washington just two days later that it was both dispatching a powerful naval force to Central America's Pacific coast and sending about 5,000 troops for military manoeuvres in

Honduras provoked only a muted response from the Mexican Government. Señor Sepúlveda commented merely that the American move was "inopportune".

At a time of economic crisis, the Mexican Government is extremely concerned that the revolutionary contagion might spread north through Central America, a possibility that would become more likely if Nicaragua and Honduras went to war, or El Salvador fell to the guerrillas.

President Reagan's policies may provoke a war in Central America but, diplomats in Mexico City believe, they have at least as good a chance of sludgegunning out a peace as the so far ill-fated diplomacy of the Contadora group.

WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration's diplomatic efforts in Central America are gaining momentum amid hopeful signs of early talks between the US-backed Government of El Salvador and the left-wing guerrillas (Christopher Thomas writes).

The strategy to facilitate regional talks, but not to participate, is beginning to show results, according to a senior White House official.

US assessments suggest that Salvadorean troops are for now beating back the guerrillas to well-defined areas, but it is recognized that they could merely be regrouping.

They continue to be well armed, mainly by stealing from the military and buying on the international market. Supplies from Nicaragua probably represent a minor source, according to Central American diplomats in Washington.

Dr Henry Kissinger, head of a presidential commission con-

sidering long-term policy options in Central America, met President Reagan yesterday after the swearing-in of the 12 commission members on Wednesday. Dr Kissinger pledged that the group would produce "the fullest and fairest report of which we are capable".

There are two Hispanic members of the commission, one of whom, Mr Henry Cisneros, Mayor of San Antonio, has provoked a storm of indignation within the Administration by publicly attacking American interference in Central America.

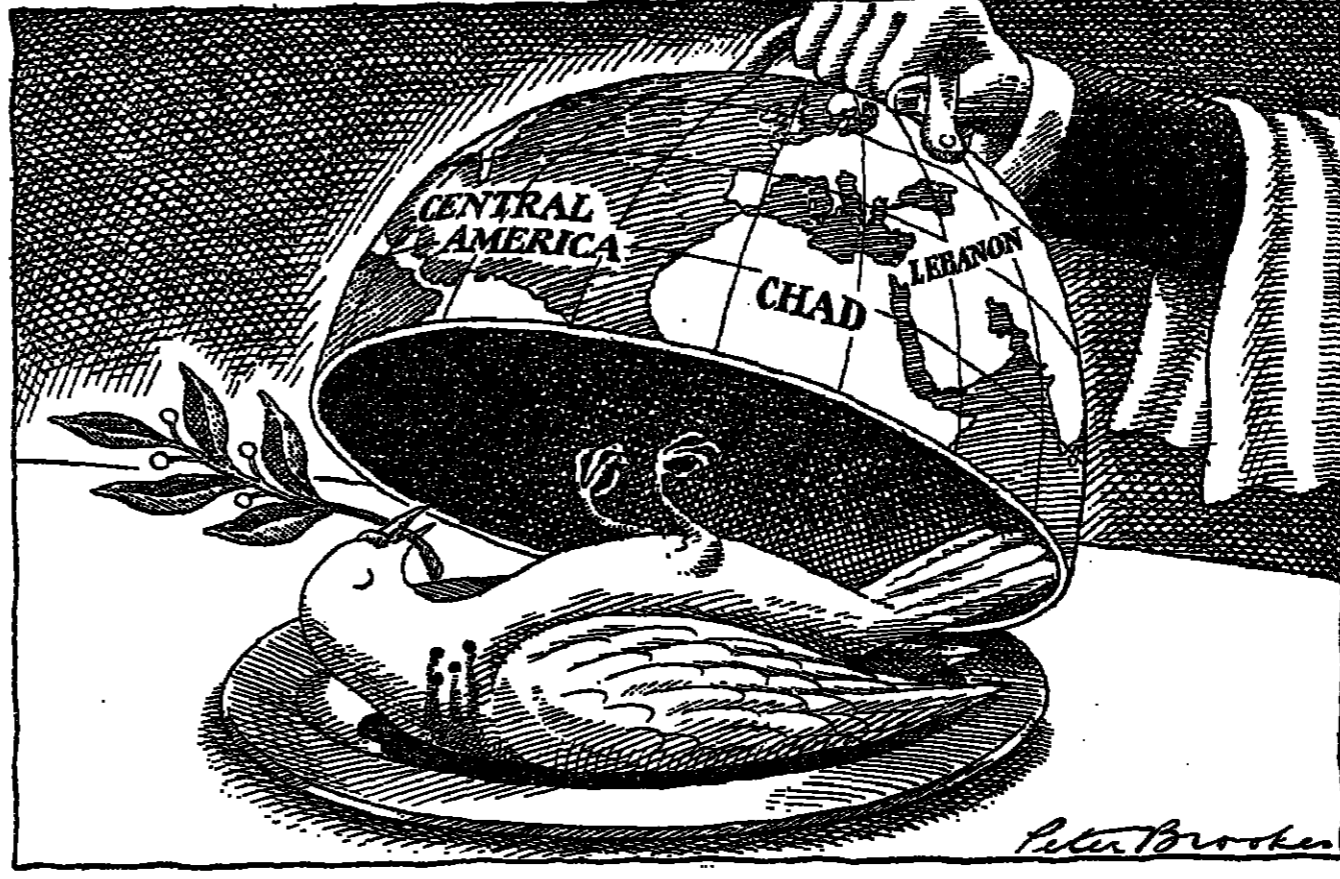
The White House merely commented that Mr Cisneros had demonstrated that the commission would not be a rubber stamp for Administration policy.

The other Hispanic member, Cuban-born Mr Carlos Diaz-Alejandro, Economics Professor at Yale, has often been accused of being sympathetic to President Castro of Cuba.

COMAYAGUA: US troops have erected a city of tents near this northern Honduran town, headquarters for the largest military manoeuvres ever held in Central America (Reuter reports). About 100 troops of the so-called Readiness Command arrived two days ago.

GUATEMALA CITY: Señor Eduardo Castillo Arriola has been replaced by Señor Fernando Andrade as Foreign Minister (Reuter reports). Señor Andrade is expected to take a harder line on Nicaragua.

MOSCOW: The Soviet Foreign Ministry protested to the US Embassy about the stopping of the freighter Aleksandr Ulyanov in the Pacific and the questioning of the captain (Reuter reports).



The Glorious Twelfth

Church assembly ends on radical note

Vancouver (NYT, Reuter) - The sixth assembly of the World Council of Churches ended yesterday with votes condemning nuclear weapons, calling for a Middle East settlement that takes into account the plight of the Palestinians, and condemning US policy in Central America and calling for economic sanctions against South Africa.

The resolution on the Middle East followed the general direction of the council's past actions. While recognizing the right of Israel and Arab countries to have secure boundaries, it called for the with-

drawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank, and advocated a negotiated settlement that included the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

In addition, the resolution warned Christians in the West to recognize that their guilt over the fate of the Jews may have influenced their views of the conflict in the Middle East, and led to uncritical support for Israeli policies.

The 900 delegates approved a statement accusing the Reagan Administration of trying to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government as part of an effort to "contain the aspirations of

the Central American peoples". An attempt by US delegates to soften the language by deleting specific mention of the United States in a section opposing foreign military intervention in the region was decisively rejected on a show of hands. Delegates also voted to renew their denunciation of apartheid, and asked churches to campaign for the withdrawal of investments by companies doing business in South Africa.

The motion included a suggestion by Bishop Desmond Tutu, the head of the South African Council of Churches, that it should express "love and

care" for white South Africans. The earlier vote on nuclear disarmament described the production of nuclear weapons as "a crime against humanity".

The most heated controversy of the 18-day assembly came on Tuesday, when the delegates narrowly voted against a Norwegian bishop's motion calling for an immediate withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

But there was an enthusiastic show of unity earlier when the delegates endorsed plans for a world conference on Christian doctrinal unity in 1987. It would involve the Roman Catholic Church.

Help sought to identify sick Briton

A scared and bewildered Englishman, lying in a hospital bed in the United States after a car crash, is desperately trying to remember who he is. He could be helped by radio listeners who are calling the BBC with possible clues about his identity (the Press Association reports).

It was reported that the blond man, aged about 24 and 5ft 10in tall, is in hospital in Portland, Oregon, "rather scared" at not knowing his identity. He thought his name could be David Miller. He had no passport or papers to identify him.

He was injured in a car crash on July 30 and taken to the Emmanuel Hospital, Portland. A hospital worker said that "Mr Miller" remembered living in a flat in Finchley, north London.

Argentina puts on the brakes

Buenos Aires (Reuter) - Argentina's military Government has announced tighter state controls on the economy to curb inflation and help industrial debts.

The measures, which include total state control of interest rates and tighter restrictions on prices and wages, were announced in a government statement after a Cabinet meeting yesterday.

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Seoul amnesty

Seoul (AP) - The South Korean Government announced an amnesty affecting 1,944 people, including 693 political prisoners, most of whom are already out of prison. The measure coincides with independence celebrations.

Wind to rescue

Cape Town (Reuter) - Freak southerly winds spread the huge oil slick from the broken Spanish tanker away from South Africa's Atlantic coastline yesterday. Officials described the escape from a disastrous fouling of the shore as miraculous.

Volta choice

Ouagadougou (AFP) - Captain Thomas Sankara, Upper Volta's new left-wing ruler, has appointed Major Boucary Jean-Baptiste Lingani, to be head of the country's armed forces, according to an official source.

Chase tragedy

Coahuila (AP) - Eleven people were killed when a car, being chased by a border patrol, collided on Wednesday with a truck near here. The crash occurred on Highway 86, known as California's Blood Alley.

Ethiopia crisis

Addis Ababa (Reuter) - More than a million people are in urgent need of food relief in drought-stricken areas of northern Ethiopia, according to a US congressional delegation.

Palace facelift

Peking (Reuter) - Restoration work has begun at the site of Peking's old imperial Summer Palace, sacked and razed by an Anglo-French force in 1860. Known as the Yuanmingyuan (garden of perfection and light), the palace complex was built between 1709 and 1772.

10 years' grace

Dar es Salaam (AP) - China has agreed to postpone for 10 years the repayment of a \$340m loan made to Tanzania and Zambia for construction of the Tazara railway between the two countries.

Golfer 'stable'

Sydney (Reuter) - The Australian golfer Jack Newton, who lost his right arm and an eye when he walked into the propeller of a light aircraft, is still in a serious but stable condition.

Mea culpa

Sante Fe, New Mexico (AP) - Chief Justice Vera Payne of New Mexico fined himself \$50 (£32) for being five minutes late for a court hearing. "The reason I leaved the fine is that we have a schedule and there are other people depending on us."

Gelli affair puts Craxi in the shade

From Our Own Correspondent Rome

A vote of confidence in Italy's first Socialist Government was pushed to the sidelines yesterday as attention was focused on the disappearance of Signor Licio Gelli, head of the banned P2 masonic lodge.

Signor Gelli is wanted here on charges including espionage and complicity in fraudulent bankruptcy. He disappeared from a Swiss prison on Tuesday night shortly before his extradition to Italy was due to be discussed.

His disappearance coincided with the planting of a bomb on a train which exploded near Prato injuring three people. Observers here were quick to point out that the Propaganda 2 lodge has been linked in the past with terrorism. Responsibility for the bombing was claimed by the extreme right-wing terrorist group Black Order.

Senator Giovanni Spadolini, Minister of Defence in the new Government and Prime Minister in the administration which had the Propaganda 2 lodge declared illegal, said yesterday: "A year ago with the arrest of Gelli we won a battle but the war against the enemies of democracy is not finished. The moral emergency is not over and we are still in danger."

Signor Bettino Craxi, the new Prime Minister, made no mention of the lodge in his speech opening the confidence debate. He spoke before the news of Signor Gelli's disappearance.

If he is to satisfy public opinion Signor Craxi must now give a convincing lead in Parliament to the opening of a new investigation. The last he could do is reestablish the parliamentary commission of inquiry on the lodge.

GENEVA: Signor Gelli's defence lawyer said yesterday that he believes the masonic leader was abducted from Champ Dollon prison in Geneva. Maître Dominique Poncet the lawyer, who had never during his months of conversations with Signor Gelli received the slightest impression that he envisaged escaping (Alan McGregor writes).

"He was removed by people - well or ill-intentioned towards him - who do not want him to speak", the lawyer added.

Senator opposes lifting sanctions on Poland

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The first senior American emissary to visit Poland since the lifting of martial law has led Warsaw declaring that economic sanctions should not be abandoned in the immediate future.

Senator Christopher Dodd, a Democrat from Connecticut, said that he had held talks with top government officials including Mr Stanislaw Niekarcz, the Finance Minister, and Mr Janusz Obodowski, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the economy, and with Mr Lech Walesa, the leader of the outlawed Solidarity union.

The two ministers had expressed their view that sanctions should be lifted immediately. But Mr Dodd said that while the ministers had been "extremely articulate," his

recommenda-

would be that it was "premature at this particular hour to lift those particular sanctions."

During four hours of confidential talks with Mr Walesa, the senator gained the impression that the Solidarity leader was against the lifting of sanctions. Mr Walesa had said that he was ready "at any time, in any place" to meet the Government and open a dialogue. He had said that political prisoners should be freed.

Mr Dodd, who is a member of both the foreign and the finance committees of the Senate, said that the Polish side had expressed strong interest in membership of the International Monetary Fund, as well as in the rescheduling of state debts.

Troubles at sea and in space Soviet atom submarine salvage in Pacific

From Philip Taubman (NYT), Washington

A nuclear-powered Soviet submarine sank in the North Pacific in June, according to American intelligence officials apparently killing all

The United States did not know whether the submarine, which was built to carry cruise missiles, was armed with them when it sank or whether there were any nuclear warheads on board.

The Soviet Government conducted an elaborate salvage effort that ended recently when the submarine was floated to the surface.

The salvage operation was conducted in part to prevent the US from trying to recover the vessel, they said, just as with the attempt to raise a sunken Soviet submarine in the early 1970s.

Intelligence officials said at the time that the CIA had recovered part of the submarine but had been unable to salvage the section that contained sensitive coding equipment.

The cause of the latest is unknown. The submarine, which belonged to a class code-named Charlie by the Western allies, sank in deep water in the Pacific off the Kamchatka peninsula. The Soviet Navy operated a base at Petropavlovsk on the peninsula, and salvage operations began almost immediately.

Charlie-class submarines, the first of which went into operation in 1969, can carry up to eight cruise missiles fitted with nuclear warheads, according to American officials.

Cosmonaut lifts veil on near crash of Soyuz

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The revelation that a Soviet spacecraft narrowly avoided crashing into an orbiting space laboratory earlier this year is seen as further evidence that the Soviet authorities have decided to be a little more open about accidents and near-accidents.

Writing in the armed forces newspaper *Red Star* this week, Colonel Vladimir Titov says the first public explanation of what went wrong with the Soyuz T8 mission.

The Soyuz craft, with a crew of two commanded by Colonel Titov, was supposed to dock with the orbiting space laboratory Salyut 7 on April 22 in a triumphant demonstration of Soviet space expertise coinciding with celebrations in Moscow of Lenin's birthday anniversary. Instead, the docking

had to be aborted at the last moment and there were fears for the cosmonauts' lives.

In his article Colonel Titov admitted that the failure, attributed by Tass at the time to "Deviation from the norm of the planned orbit", had been due to an antenna malfunction.

Initially, the crew were in touch with ground control, firing their engines in 50 second bursts as they manoeuvred towards the massive station.

With the lights of the station only 160 yards away, Colonel Titov decided they were going too fast. "It seemed possible we were going to crash, so I fired the engines to move the craft down", he wrote. When they emerged from the "dead zone" the crew were instructed by ground control to return

Shagari's post-victory priorities

Lagos (Reuter) - President Shagari of Nigeria, fresh from a landslide victory at the polls, said yesterday that the economy and agriculture would be the priorities of his new administration.

He polled more than 12 million votes - more than four million ahead of his closest rival, Chief Obafemi Awolowo of the Unity Party of Nigeria - according to final results released early yesterday.

He said he was not concerned about opposition protests of widespread election malpractice and allegations of rigging by his National Party of Nigeria (NPN).

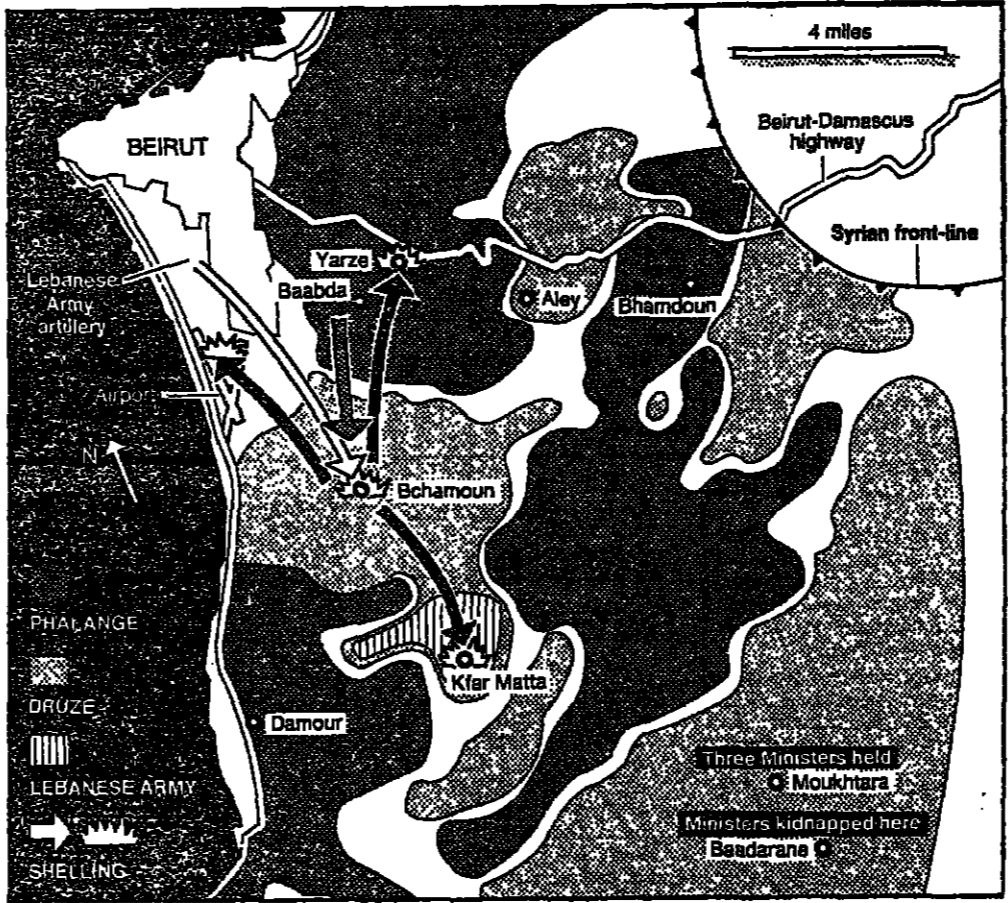
"Nigerians like to complain, especially when they lose", he said. "Nigerians understand this and I do not take it very seriously."

He said that the first civilian-run elections in Nigeria for nearly 20 years had proved that democracy had been reestablished. "I am proud to have proved wrong those who believe we are not capable of running free and fair elections without violence."

He said that there would be a Cabinet shake-up after his inauguration on October 1 but no change of policy. "What we are immediately concerned with is the state of the economy and our task is to tackle the problem of recession."

Mr Shagari gave no further details, but earlier Professor Emmanuel Edozien, his special adviser on economic affairs, said there would be no relaxation of austerity measures imposed in April last year to cut down on imports.

"We do not intend to be deluded into reverting to old habits by a change of fortunes in oil", he said. "We should not see the cut-down on imports as temporary. The pressure will be kept up, although the levels may change."



Israelis on currency buying spree

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The economic crisis facing the Begin Government remained unresolved yesterday, as many Israelis continued buying foreign currency in the belief that a second devaluation will soon follow this week's cut in the value of the shekel by 7.5 per cent.

Israel radio said the continued high demand for foreign bank notes reflected public scepticism about repeated Treasury details that a second devaluation was being contemplated.

The Government is now drawing up a programme of new taxes and swinging cuts in ministerial budgets to rescue the economy and pay for the occupation of Lebanon, estimated at \$1m a day.

Mr Yoram Aridor, the Finance Minister, told a confer-

ence of Jewish fund-raisers here that Israel faced two challenges: the economic recession in the West and the high cost of the Lebanon war.

"Since we cannot add to our state budget and must pay new bills, we have no alternative but to cut our budget", he said. The ministerial economic committee has already agreed unanimously on a taxation package which will soon be presented for endorsement by the full Cabinet.

The Cabinet will also be asked to consider a Treasury demand for a 20bn shekel cut in the defence budget, which is being fiercely resisted by the new minister, Mr Moshe Arens.

There were unconfirmed reports in political circles yesterday that Mr Arens - current favourite to succeed Mr

Menachem Begin as leader of the Likud coalition - might press for withdrawal from Lebanon if the amount to be pruned from his budget is not substantially reduced.

The planned new taxes are certain to prove unpopular and swayed the Government's poor standing in the opinion polls.

The new austerity package designed to claw in 15bn shekels. It includes a doubling in the tax levied on every Israeli travelling abroad to \$100; the imposition of 15 per cent value-added tax on all fresh fruit and vegetables; a new tax on child allowances.

It was learnt last night that the decision to devalue was taken at a meeting between Mr Aridor, Mr Begin and Mr Moshe Mandelbaum, the governor of the Bank of Israel.

Eastern Sheldt barrage: Memories of 1953 flood disaster

Dutch labour of Hercules to stem the sea

From Robert Shull on board RVS Stad Zierikzee Eastern Sheldt

The walls of ships' sirens cut through the calm night on the Eastern Sheldt in the south-west yesterday to mark a unique feat of hydraulic engineering.

Dutch engineers had just faithfully completed the delicate task of gently lowering the first of 66 piers, each the size of a cathedral, to within five centimetres of their planned positions on the bed of the estuary, signalling the beginning of the final phase to the most ambitious flood prevention scheme ever undertaken by man.

On February 1, 1953, as had happened all too often in this country's history, gales and a spring tide combined to slash through the traditional dykes protecting the islands in the delta where the Scheldt, the Maas and the Rhine flow into the North-Sea. Nearly 2,000 men, women and children died.

Faced with this toll, the Dutch decided to mobilise their vast experience in harnessing the sea in an effort to defeat their age-old foe once and for all.

In 1958 Parliament passed the Delta Act, approving a project which would shorten the Dutch coastline by about 440 miles by closing off all the estuaries, with the exception of the Western Scheldt and the new waterway to allow shipping continued access to Antwerp and Rotterdam.

Thirty years and thousands of millions of guilders after the floods, the gigantic scheme, is nearing completion. It has turned tidal creeks into lakes and freed the islands from their isolation by providing roads to the rest of the country, over the dams across the estuaries.



Fighting the sea: The lifting barge used to transport huge piers to their positions on the seabed in the eastern Scheldt estuary to form a sea barrage.

The final estuary to be closed off is the eastern Scheldt and it has provided the biggest challenge of all. Each tide about 1,000 million cubic metres of water and treacherous currents flow through the estuary, which is about five miles wide, with sandbanks and channels up to 60ft deep.

Originally this inlet was to have been closed off entirely by a solid dam. A significant proportion of the Dutch fishing industry is, however, concentrated in the eastern Scheldt, including the famous Zeeland oysters.

The complete closure of the estuary would have meant the end of its mussel and oyster industry and the lobster trade. The eastern Scheldt is also a nursery for other species, such as sole, plaice and shrimps.

Under the combined onslaught of the fishing industry and the environmentalists anxious to preserve the area's unique flora and fauna, Parliament decided in June, 1976, that an expensive storm surge barrier instead of a solid dam would be built across the Eastern Scheldt.

The engineers and the Government are confident, however, that at least part of this cost will be recouped in the export of the unique knowhow the project has given them.

صكنا من الأصل

Gandhi under pressure over Indian Tamil hostility to Sri Lanka

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The 40 million Tamils in India are in a state of high indignation about the treatment of their brother Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Feelings in the rest of India, too, are hostile to the Government of Mr J. R. Jayewardene and to what are perceived here as his oppressive actions in banning talk of separatism, and sequestering Tamil-owned properties damaged in the disturbances.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mrs Gandhi, and her ministers are having to pursue a delicate task in their relations with the island Government. They must be seen to be taking positive action to relieve the burden of the Tamils, without transgressing the code of non-interference endorsed by the Non-Aligned Movement of which India is the proud chairman.

The inhabitants of Tamil Nadu - "Tamil-land" as the former Madras state is now called - are enthusiastic supporters of the call for Tamil Eelam, the separate state which the secessionists wish to establish in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

A march of 5,000 Tamil volunteers, who signed a pledge in their own blood not to be deterred, is on its way to the coast of the Palk Strait which separates the island from the mainland.

They will undoubtedly be prevented from doing more than jumping up and down at the edge of the sea and making faces across the water, but their actions generate a genuine frisson of fear among certain Sinhalese.

The military forces in the northern province and in the town of Jaffna have a much more real fear, however. They believe that the Tamil terrorists are given aid and comfort across the strait.

According to Colonel Mike Silva, who commands the northern forces, the "Tamil Tigers" not only receive training sessions in Tamil Nadu, they also get medical treatment when wounded, sanctuary when hunted, and a market for the products of their fund-raising robberies.

One effect of the current troubles of the Sri Lankan Tamils had been the establishment in Madras of an office of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the political party representing the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

The front has had offices in Britain and in the US but never before in India. According to the sponsor of the new office, its first task will be to organize refugee camps in Tamil Nadu.

Not to be outdone, the

president and the general secretary of the opposition DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) in the assembly also resigned, protesting at the central Government's failure to intervene to save the Tamils from "genocide".

The competition between the chief minister, Mr M. G. Ramachandram's Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (ADMK) and the DMK to see who can be most supportive of the Tamil cause, also has an effect at the centre.

Mrs Gandhi is compelled to take some action in support of the Tamil cause. She cannot afford to alienate the ADMK and the chief minister, whom she is thought to be trying to woo into an electoral alliance.

According to informed observers, the Indian Government's policy now is to work up the dialogue begun in Delhi this week with the visit of the Sri Lankan President's brother, Mr H. W. Jayewardene, into a series of high level political contacts.

● COLOMBO: The leader of the opposition and secretary-general of the TULF, Mr Appapali Amirthalingam, has sent a letter to President Jayewardene, which could form the basis for top-level negotiations between the Government and the Tamil front (Donovan Moldrich writes).



Fire blacks out Seventh Avenue

Floodlights blazing in blacked-out Seventh Avenue, New York, as emergency services struggle to restore power after a fire at an electricity sub-station.

The fire plunged the city's fashion industry, in the heart of Manhattan, into darkness during a vital marketing week (Trevor Fishlock writes).

With thousands of buyers in town to look at the new fashion lines, manufacturers yesterday moved their models and clothes into hotel rooms

for shows, or fixed up emergency lighting on their own premises.

The blackout intensified the chaos in what is always a frenzied week in a tightly packed and busy part of the city between 30th Street and 42nd Street. More than half of New York's 5,500 clothing makers were affected.

"It is a blow to the industry at a crucial time", one of the editors of *Womenswear Daily* said. "But remember that this is a resilient industry and people are getting on with business. Hundreds of stores, offices and

businesses have been knocked out by the power failure, which followed a devastating fire caused by a water main bursting and short-circuiting underground transformers. The electricity company hopes to restore power by Monday.

This was New York's worst power failure for two years. It is unlikely to have the spectacular after-effects of the legendary evening blackout of the mid-1960s, which was followed, nine months later, by heavy pressure on the city's maternity wards.

Britain tells Malta to halt Madrid stalling

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Britain called on Malta at the European security review conference here yesterday to stop delaying the conclusion of the meeting. No further amendments to the proposed final document stood any chance of gaining the necessary consensus of all 15 participating countries, Britain said.

Mr Kevin Passmore, of the British delegation, also responded to Malta's warning last week about the danger to the Helsinki process that might result from trying to by-pass Malta and reach an agreement among the 34 remaining Helsinki nations.

He said Britain has no intention of violating the rule of consensus.

The Maltese delegation did not reply. Its insistence on incorporating changes in the proposed document to reflect its own concern on Mediterranean security, is the last obstacle in the way of final agreement.

If Malta continues to hold out past next Thursday, tentative plans to schedule the final sessions of the conference in the first week of September, with the participation of most of the foreign ministers, may have to be cancelled.

Spain, the host country, said last month that it would not have time to make the necessary preparations for the presence of foreign ministers unless the tentative plan became definite by August 25.



Roo dollar not fair dinkum

News that Australia's new dollar coin will not be "fair dinkum" Australia has set off a storm of protest (Tony Duboulin writes). Dubbed the "Roo dollar", because of the five kangaroos on its reverse, it will be a yellow-gold colour and stamped from a blank made from 92 per cent copper, 6 per cent aluminium and 2 per cent nickel.

The coin will be stamped at the mint in Canberra but the blanks will be made overseas, probably in South Korea.

A Treasury spokesman explained that the contract would be given to an overseas company because there was no company in Australia capable of producing the base metal.

Hectic visit to Dhaka for Yaqub

Dhaka (AFP) - Bangladesh, the country which emerged from a war against Pakistan 12 years ago, held talks with Pakistan here yesterday which were described as free and frank.

They were between the respective foreign ministers, Mr A. R. Shams-Ud Doha and Sahabzada Yaqub Kahan, and covered bilateral, regional and international issues, an official spokesman said.

It was the Pakistani foreign minister's first official visit to Bangladesh. The two ministers would continue to discuss all issues of mutual concern, the spokesman said. He declined to answer queries on specific issues being discussed.

Bangladesh and Pakistan have a long list of such issues, including the question of repatriation for the remaining 300,000 stranded Bihari Muslims who opted for Pakistan after the emergence of Bangladesh, the division of assets and liabilities between Dhaka and Islamabad and trade imbalances.

Get on famously on the Glorious Twelfth.

Quality in an age of change.

Queen is still regent, says Swazi minister

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

A 15-year-old prince who is at public school in England has been officially named as the future King of Swaziland but there were signs yesterday of a bitter feud developing between factions of the royal family.

Within hours of the dismissal on Wednesday as Regent of Queen Dzelwe - known to Swazis as the *Indlovukazi* or Great She-Elephant - Prince Bkikimpi, the Prime Minister, announced that Prince Mkhosetive, when he is 21, will succeed King Sobhuza II, who died last August after ruling for 47 years.

The young prince, whose name means "King of the Nation" is the son of the New Queen Regent, Queen Niombi, who like Queen Dzelwe, was one of King Sobhuza's 100 wives. He is attending Grechill House School, a unit of Sherborne college.

But yesterday, one of the most powerful men in Swaziland, Prince Gabhenni, the Minister of Home Affairs and head of the Defence Council, denounced Queen Dzelwe's dismissal as unconstitutional and illegal. He said that despite a notice to the contrary in the government gazette, Queen Dzelwe is still regent. She has not been replaced.

Sources in Mbabane, the

Britons decide against caning appeal

By Rodney Cowton

At least five of the six Britons who have been sentenced to long terms in prison and to receive hundreds of strokes of the cane have decided not to appeal against their sentences.

They were visited in jail on Wednesday by Mr Douglas Scrutton, a British Embassy official and the Foreign Office said yesterday that they had decided not to appeal.

The sentences were imposed last Sunday after the six men had admitted offences involving alcohol, which is banned in Saudi Arabia. The Foreign Office is expected to obtain official confirmation of their sentences, and of the charges, when an official goes to the court in Riyadh tomorrow.

It is believed that the charges related to alleged plans to take large quantities of whisky into the country.

Birth rate soars in Hongkong refugee camps

From Richard Hughes, Hongkong

A soaring birth rate in Hongkong's crowded camps for Vietnamese refugees still awaiting resettlement, has become a serious problem, it was admitted at the closing 1982-83 session of Hongkong's Legislative Council or parliament.

There were 544 births in the camps between July last year and last June, boosting the refugee population by 4.3 per cent to 12,000. In the preceding 12 months, the increase was 466 or 3.3 per cent. Hongkong's population increase last year was 1.7 per cent.

Mr Patrick Williamson, the acting security minister, pointed out that Caritas, the Roman Catholic welfare organization, had introduced "a family life education programme" into one central camp "not only for married couples."

SPECTRUM

Michael Cimino was responsible for the true-life Hollywood disaster of *Heaven's Gate*, which cost \$40m and brought a major studio to its knees. In London for a second opinion, he talked to Nicholas Wapshott

Sympathy for the bedevilled

The history of Hollywood is strewn with expensive failures. Erich von Stroheim's *Greed* of 1923 began as an extravagant, 10-hour epic, only to be cut down on Irving Thalberg's orders to a mere two-and-a-half hours. Sam Peckinpah's *Major Dundee* ran into similar trouble in 1965, causing him years without work until he bounced back with *The Wild Bunch*. But no recent flop has so caught the imagination as the story of Michael Cimino's *Heaven's Gate*. It has become a by-word for disaster, the most notorious example of a young director, given his head and showered in money, turning in a grandiose, unpopular, unmarketable turkey.

This week Cimino flew into London to introduce, for the first time in Britain, the original, uncut version of *Heaven's Gate*. Four days of screenings at the National Film Theatre this weekend will be the latest event in a slow campaign to have the film reassessed. Already the full-length print has been seen in Venice and Rome. In Paris, so many wanted to attend the single showing at the Palais Chailiot that the doors of the Cinéma-thèque were unhinged by those left outside. They burst into the auditorium and demanded that the film be restarted from the beginning.

Meanwhile, in the United States, Z Channel in Los Angeles, a pay-television cable network, has screened the complete version to record audiences at a record price. The film has also just opened on cable in Canada. Slowly, *Heaven's Gate* is at last finding an audience.

The quiet revival of what was thought to be a dead film has succeeded through the love of filmgoers to "discover" a lost epic and the solid support of Cimino and the others who worked on it. Cimino explained: "I think that most of the people who made the movie have never broken faith with it. That comes as a surprise. Many people would prefer *amica culpa* 'show us your stigmata and we'll forgive you from us, but neither I nor the producer, nor the actors, nor the crew has regretted making the movie.'"

It was three years ago that Michael Cimino became the laughing stock of Hollywood. His rise and fall in the movie business was predictable and traditional, a familiar storyline followed by dozens of cinema celebrities before him. He found himself in the good company of those, like Orson Welles, Charles Chaplin, von Stroheim and others, who enjoyed the fruits of success only to have their work and talents abused with the speed of one of those montages of swirling calendar dates and newspaper head-

lines that make a cinematic short-cut between riches and rags.

He had started out as a screenwriter of promise and came to the attention of Clint Eastwood, who provided him in 1974 with his first feature as director, *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. Then, with his second film, he struck gold. *The Deer Hunter*, about three Vietnam veterans, swept the Oscars, including Best Film and Best Director. Cimino was the hottest property in Hollywood and Hollywood responded in the time-honoured way, United Artists, the owners of Francis Coppola's less obviously successful Vietnam epic, *Apocalypse Now*, and made an offer he couldn't refuse.

Cimino would be allowed to make a film of his own choice. The budget would be substantial and it was made clear that there would be no trouble at head office if it turned out that he needed more. He would be granted total artistic licence and there would be the minimum of interference. Even the senior executives of UA would forego their usual alarm mechanism of seeing the daily rushes. In short, he was given enough celluloid to hang himself.

Cimino decided to revive the Western, a type of movie which had fallen from popular favour. He would base it upon the Johnson County Wars, a little-remembered incident of US history in which stockholders took the law into their own hands in the systematic murder of 125 immigrants accused of stealing cattle. He hired the most fashionable actors of the times: Christopher Walken, the Russian roulette-playing star of *The Deer Hunter*; John Hurt, the Englishman from *Midnight Express*; Isabelle Huppert, the French beauty from Claude Goretta's *The Lacemaker*; and Kris Kristofferson, the singer.

The cost of Cimino's perfectionism became a great source of film-world gossip. All the sets and costumes were based on contemporary photographs. All the hats were hand made. All the location work was in remote areas, often meaning the cast and crew driving four hours to and from work each day. Two hundred thousand tons of Fuller's earth was spread about the key location to simulate mud. A steam train was brought across five states on a railway wagon.

There were other extravaganzas. Members of Cimino's old fighting unit, the Green Berets, were hired to teach actors how to handle firearms "not as a prop but as a lethal aid". When Mansfield College, Oxford, stood in for nineteenth-century Harvard, a treeless quad had erected at its centre a huge oak, which had been bought, cut up,



Cimino on the set of *Heaven's Gate*: an offer he couldn't refuse.

numbered, then reassembled. The size of the cast swelled into four figures as the number of extras was spontaneously doubled or tripled. All the interior shots were photographed through a chemical smoke-screen for period effect, causing costly retakes to match previous footage. Cimino, engrossed and working around the clock, rode about in a Jeep, oblivious to the fact that he was riding for a fall.

For reasons unconnected to Cimino or the *Heaven's Gate* project, the press and public had come to hope that one of a number of wildly expensive films made by young directors, whose precocity had been rewarded by high budgets and low accountability, might come a cropper. One after another, the wobbly films arrived: Steven Spielberg's Pearl Harbour comedy, 1941; Martin Scorsese's 1940s musical romance, *New York, New York*; Francis Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*. Each had teetered but not quite fallen. When *Heaven's Gate* loomed into view with a budget of \$40 million, it looked as if it had been set up to fall over. There was a ready appetite for a disaster of Titanic proportions.

Today, Cimino prefers not to become involved in recriminations. "I think it was probably connected with the success of *The Deer Hunter*, but in order to understand it you have to understand so many things other than movies." He would have liked to have

had time to cut and edit at leisure. "There was no time for previews. There was great pressure from inside United Artists to get it out. I expected that it would open at two small cinemas, in New York and LA, and that I would be able to change things, like Kubrick did with *2001*. But it was made into a conspicuous event."

The build-up had been so considerable that the press could not resist pronouncing. Cimino flew to New York for the press show and watched the film crumble before his eyes. The press smelt blood and leading the pack was Vincent Canby of the *New York Times*, usually the gentlest of critics. He wrote: "You might suspect Mr Cimino sold his soul to the devil to obtain the success of *The Deer Hunter* and the devil has just come around to collect."

The verdict was unanimous and merciless. *Heaven's Gate* jokes became the latest thing. Cimino and his producer, Joann Carelli, the uncredited producer of *The Deer Hunter*, begged for a reprieve. They asked their bosses at United Artists to withdraw the film from public view so that they could continue work on it. After a bare week in New York, the film was recalled.

Did the abuse and gloating hurt Cimino? He answers the question with absolute dispassion, as if his raw feelings had been soothed by a "think positive" therapy. "I am for the most



The cost of Cimino's perfectionism became a great source of film gossip

part unaware of those critics. I went straight back to work. I try not to read too much criticism, but in this case there was no time. We were still at work after the original opening. There really didn't seem to be much point in reading it. What I was told didn't seem to be about the movie or myself, but about some other movie and someone else."

Several months and a futher \$10m million later, Cimino was ready with the second version, cut by an hour but even less coherent than the original. By the time of its second coming, most people had become bored with the whole affair. It opened to apathy and didn't last.

"One of the things that is disturbing about that sort of reaction has to do with all of your colleagues. For instance David Mansfield, who wrote all the music. He played the boy with the fiddle on roller skates in the film. It was his first time and it was a superior score."

Vittorio Storaro, who photographed *Reds*, said to Vilmos Zsigmond, who worked for me, that he thought Vilmos was bound to take the Oscar for *Heaven's Gate*, but you do not like to see your own people not getting work."

Does he regret the way it all turned out? "No. I do not have regrets about the work that I do. You cannot work that way. It is a bit like being in the army. There are no excuses, no complaints. You cannot be effective if you are always looking back over your shoulders. There is an old Arab saying 'The blow that doesn't break you strengthens you' And who is there to be angry at?"

Cimino has not directed a film in the three years since *Heaven's Gate*. Many projects have been mentioned, but none have come to fruition. It was suggested that might direct the latest remake of *Mulvey on the Bounty*, which his hero, David Lean, had turned down; the plan did not work out. And he is reluctant to be drawn on his current work, which he simply calls "a project for Columbia."

"Other directors work on a number of projects at the same time, some of which might work out, and they can talk about them. But if I say anything, it is all over the newspapers. It is a bit dismaying because I am treated in the press more as an actor than a director. A director should be invisible."

And he insists that he is still a director and writer and has been working solidly since the debacle. "Time and time again we have seen musicians and artists suffer similar criticisms to that which I have received for *Heaven's Gate*, but they keep working, they keep writing, they keep painting and, if they are lucky, the work endures. Finally, that's what it is about. It sounds like a cliché, but work is the reward."

Heaven's Gate is being shown twice daily at the National Film Theatre tomorrow, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

moreover... Miles Kington

Grousing about the Twelfth

From Lord Disgusted
Sir, Many people mock the concept of grouse shooting as old-fashioned and behind the times. But this year you will have read that there are very few grouse left on the moors and that it will be a lucky shot who bags a pair, or pairs a bag, or whatever the expression is. This proves that grouse shooting does work. We have almost exterminated the little. Another year, and perhaps the Scottish highlands will at last be free from these cunning, evil-minded little blighters. Keep shooting!

From Lord Whortle
Sir, I read that as grouse are now so rare, many owners of grouse moors are thinking of turning their property over to forestry. As one who did so 10 years ago, may I be permitted to comment?

Our experience is that although people find it strange at first shooting at trees instead of grouse, they come to enjoy it very much. Foreign businessmen who have come to Scotland year after year without hitting a single grouse suddenly discover that shooting at and winging a tree is comparatively easy, and of course the tree does not die. Ignorant quarters say that hitting a stationary tree is not sportsman-like: the truth is of course that on all but the calmest days the trees blow about a lot and it still requires skill to bring down a young larch or spruce.

Our season, too, starts on the twelfth, and we shall enjoy the usual race to be the first to bring the season's first pine needles to a London restaurant. Last year, by the way, I shot at and missed a young fir on the opening day, but brought down a pair of grouse sitting in the branches!

From Mr J. G. Lavoisier
Monsieur, As usual we shall be taking part in the race to be the first people to bring a London restaurant up to the Scottish moors to serve a grouse on the Glorious Twelfth. At midnight on the eleventh, we at the Petit Bistro de Chez Jean shall be air-lifting our little *boute* by helicopter and flying it through the night to Scotland. By dawn we shall be in position in Glenbutler near Loch Rannoch and open to serve grouse all day. If no grouse are available, we shall be serving freshly shot trout and salmon. Looking forward to seeing you all!

From Colonel Waggoner
Sir, I might have known it. Every year, as regular as clockwork, we get so-called satirical comments from such as 'your columnist Miles Kington (is that really his name?) about the noble sport of grouse shooting. How many times do I have to explain that without the dedicated breeding and conservation of those concerned, there would be hardly any grouse left? Shooting is conservation.

If you then ask me how it is that there are hardly any grouse left, my answer is: I do not know. But that is quite beside the point.

From Henry the Talking Avocet
Hello darling! Your old friend Henry here, halfway through his summer season at Lowestoft or Skegness or somewhere, and my goodness the crowds have been flocking this year to see me in my spectacular production of *Seagulls Over Sorrento*. But enough of me. I just wanted to reminisce briefly about the one time I got involved in the grouse shooting season.

In 1978 I was in Scotland to see a rather charming parramigan with whom I was conducting a passionate but short-lived *affaire scandaleuse*, and on August 12 we happened to be out on the moors when all hell broke loose. Not since a cabaret tour of the Lebanon had I felt so at risk.

Keeping my head, I infiltrated myself among the beaters and cried out in my best Knightsbridge accent: "Aim at the trees over here, you chaps!" The result was gratifying. Six beaters shot, two winged and Lord Strathcomfrey drove round the bend. Yes, a good day's sport all round.

If a certain young quail named Yvonne should chance to read this, may I make it quite clear that all is over between us? You may keep the ring if you like, it is only from the top of a larger tin.

Taking the red tape road to Turin

Robert Moreland, Euro-MP for Staffordshire East, recently travelled across Europe in the cab of a long-distance lorry to see how the European Community looks to the men whose daily business is crossing borders. Here he tells Patricia Clough of the endless waiting, the red tape and the corruption in a Europe supposedly dedicated to free and unrestricted travel.

It was about dawn on Monday, July 18 as I set out from Tilbury in the co-driver's seat of a 32-ton articulated lorry bound for Turin. Beside me was Monty Murrell, an experienced long-distance driver who did the run regularly. Behind us was some £80,000 worth of mixed freight, ranging from radio-cassette recorders to titanium dioxide, which we had to deliver in France and Italy.

For four years I have sat on the transport committee of the European Parliament, battling with the mass of different rules and regulations, the vested interests and other problems which when it comes to transport still prevent the Common Market being a common market. Now I wanted to see for myself what really goes on at the Community's internal borders. It was even worse than I feared.

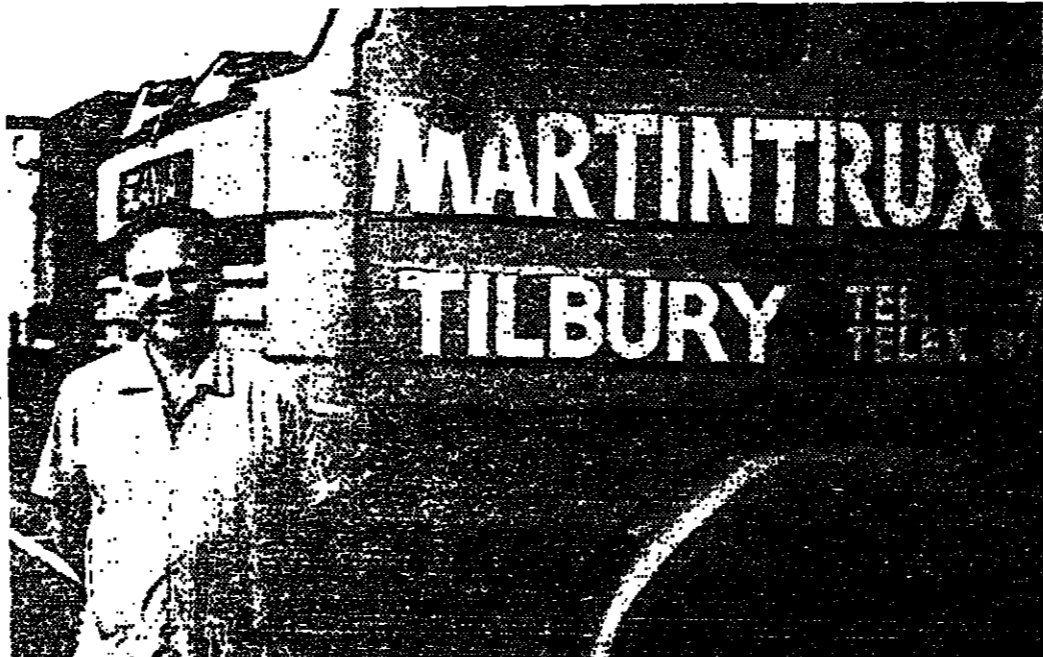
The first incident happened before we had even left Britain. At Dover the Customs asked to see a consignment of photo-chemicals imported from the United States but bound for France. The officer just looked at the boxes, not at the content. It was a short delay, but it meant we missed the boat. We had to wait 90 minutes for the next ferry and consequently failed to reach the French customs clearing house near Paris that night. Think of the cost of such a delay which ties up a £50,000 lorry and a driver earning £300 a week plus expenses, then

multiply it by the thousands of lorries that this must happen to each week. I could not understand why the Customs officers wanted to see the boxes, since the documents clearly said the tax would be paid in France. When I asked, I received a blank stare.

In Calais the formalities only took a minute, but we came across the first annoying rule - lorries are not allowed to enter France with more than 200 litres of fuel in their tanks. Some vehicles can hold four times as much. In Germany, it used to be only 50 litres, which is very little for a lorry using up one litre per mile.

Drivers have to calculate all this before they reach the border. At Calais they only looked at our gauge, but they could have checked with a dipstick, causing more delay and trouble. Also different countries have different maximum weights, and often drivers have to unload some of their freight at a border before they can go on.

We parked for the night in the yard of the Paris clearing house. Next morning it took about three hours to get through all the paperwork. The papers needed for the journey made up a really thick folder.



Robert Moreland: cigars, but no whisky for the Italian passport officials.

have declared it illegal. Then you have to have a permit to drive the lorry through France. Germany and Italy insist on permits. They are issued on a quota system and there are never enough, so some drivers travel illegally. The European Parliament wants many more permits, but Germany especially is against it because it wants to channel freight on to the railways. Then there are T-forms - T for Transit - one for each type of goods carried, six copies of each. On the

return journey we carried machine tools. Each tool and each individual type of drill attachment had to have its own T-form. Of course the log-book, passport and insurance all have to be in order.

At the Italian border the passport official asked if we had any cigarettes. Monty gave him some cigars. I asked what would have happened if he hadn't given him anything. "He would have made us wait a quarter of an hour," he said. A second official then asked for

forgotten misdemeanour and written off by their owners.

We were lucky by Turin standards; we only had to wait four hours. The Italians insisted on us going through the whole clearance process again as we were leaving, though why I cannot imagine. You would think they would be glad to export their goods. The French did not care about us on the way back, but we had a four-hour wait at Dover because it was busy.

I was astonished not by the mountain of paperwork involved in the journey, but by the amount of time wasted at customs' posts. During the week we spent a total of seventeen and a half hours waiting at customs' offices. The Commission estimates that these delays alone cost £600m a year. Customs duty has been abolished; the delays are caused by working out the differences in VAT and excise duty in each country. Not one official asked to look at our load.

So much of that paperwork could be reduced by inter-connected computers and data processing. One suspects that the officials themselves are resisting such changes; inevitably they would mean fewer jobs. France must be told to stop demanding the *Carnet de passage* risk being banished before the European Court of Justice. We must put a stop to the permit system, it is an encouragement to bribery and corruption.

All the drivers I spoke to complained that no one ever takes any notice of their problems. If the EEC's transport ministers and officials could see what things looked like from the cabin of a lorry, perhaps those problems would be dealt with.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 124)

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9				10		
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14	15					
16			17	18	19	
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24					25	

- ACROSS
1 Loudness measure (7)
5 Aspires (5)
8 Space mystery (1,1,1)
9 Smarter (7)
10 Practice (5)
11 Second in series (4)
12 Lefthover drink (7)
14 Without feature (13)
16 Image boosting project (3,4)
18 Too (4)
21 Extreme (5)
22 Unite with oxygen (7)
23 Charge (3)
24 Endow (5)
25 Custardlike food (7)
- DOWN
1 Cheap bed (4)
2 Profane oath (5)
3 Bachelor's degree (13)
4 Stagger (5)
5 Burglary (13)
6 Babble (7)
7 Walk by (4,4)
13 Time plan (8)
15 Miscarried (7)
17 Deputy's function (5)
19 Usual chaos (5)
20 Crooked (4)
- SOLUTION TO No 123
ACROSS: 1 Mousing 5 Thrill 8 Err 9 Effort 10 Advice 11 Impl 12 Own Brand 13 Focals 15 Jogger 17 Intercom 20 Neon 22 Abstract 23 Avenue 24 Elm 25 Amond 26 Sundry
DOWN: 2 Ozium 3 Ivories 4 Get home 5 Train 6 Rover 7 Licence 14 Omnibus 15 Jimjams 16 Ginseng 18 Etude 19 Cited 21 Otter
(Solution to No 124 on Monday) Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

مكتبة الأصل

Drugs ring with a difference

Jenny Bryan examines the curious route taken by British drugs from manufacturer to chemist, a route costing the NHS about £50m a year

Information on drug packaging can be confusing at the best of times. If it is in French or Italian, it becomes incomprehensible. But more and more drugs manufactured for people on the Continent are finding their way on to the British shelves because it is cheaper to import them from Europe than to buy them in this country. And it is probably costing the Department of Health and Social Security £50m a year.

The practice of importing cheap drugs has arisen because of the enormous price differences around the world. In some cases, British made drugs are actually reimported to Britain because they can be bought so much cheaper in Europe. In other instances, drugs get into Europe from the Far East and eastern Europe, are re-packed and brought to Britain with French, Belgian or Italian stamps on them.

Anyone importing a drug to Britain needs a product licence and normally it is only the manufacturer who holds such documents. A loophole in the law, however, allows people without licences to import small quantities of drugs which are not available in Britain but are needed for individual patients.

In the last year the practice of "parallel importing" cheap drugs has increased dramatically. Wholesalers found an unexpected ally in Brussels, since EEC legislation encourages free trade in drugs across the borders of member countries. The DHSS made a brief effort to curtail the practice, but discovered it would be breaking EEC law if it did so.

Parallel importing is reckoned to be costing the DHSS £50m a year. This is because pharmacists who buy cheap imported drugs do not pass on the results of their good housekeeping to the NHS. When putting in their accounts to the DHSS for reimbursement of the cost of buying drugs, they charge the department the full recommended British price.

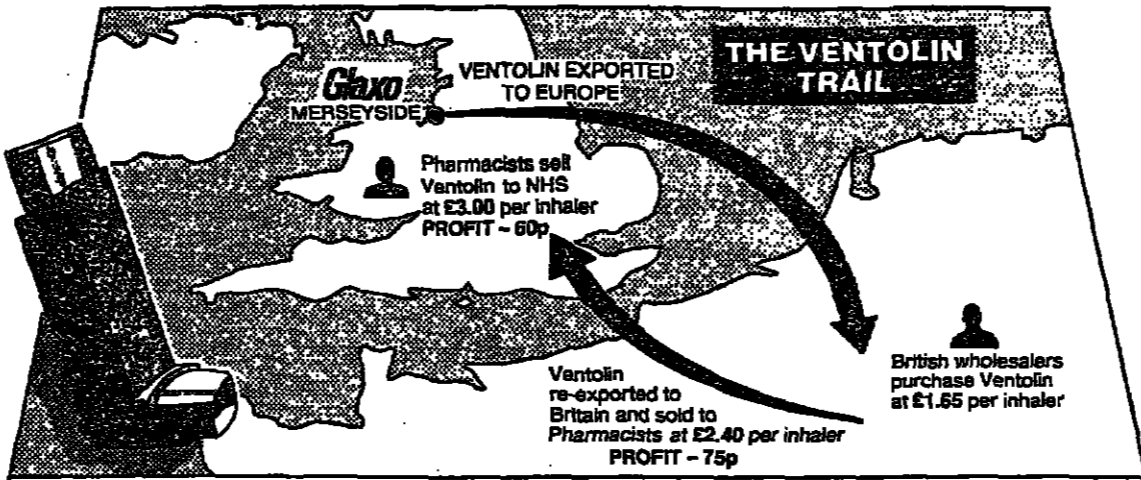
The DHSS recently announced that it would claw back the estimated 6 per cent profit which pharmacists are known to make from buying drugs from the big three British wholesalers who do not import drugs. But the DHSS has not tackled the 20-25 per cent

profit they are reckoned to be making from imported drugs. Feelings run high over parallel importing. Drug companies selling in Britain deplore the practice because of their loss of earnings. Pharmacists' representatives are worried because of the risk of pharmacists being held responsible for drug accidents. Repackaging of drugs in Europe or in Britain often makes it difficult to find the manufacturer so pharmacists, as the last traceable link, could find themselves liable for any serious side effects of the drugs.

Both companies and pharmacists are especially nervous about drugs which come into Britain from outside Europe and may have been stored under highly questionable conditions. The importers insist that they know their sources and can guarantee the quality of the drugs they bring to Britain. But as with any commercial venture, there are always cowboys who make their money and conveniently disappear. Drug companies do not sell their products more cheaply in Europe from choice. France, for example, introduced tough controls on drug prices which prevent companies from charging at British levels. The industry argues that such measures stifle investment and hence research and development of new drugs.

Recently Mr Norman Fowler, the Health Minister, announced a 2.5 per cent cut in British drug prices, and further controls on the profitability of the industry are expected. A leading parallel importer in the North of England said he found the present cut derisory. "It won't make a scrap of difference to parallel importing", he said. "We are open to a 5 per cent negotiation on our prices to pharmacists and other wholesalers: 2.5 per cent is nothing."

Both the drug industry and major wholesalers who do not import cheap drugs have urged the health minister to crack down on parallel importing. Any further package to control drug prices in Britain may include a curb on importing which will make the total deal more palatable to the drug industry. In the meantime, drug sales in Britain are as subject to vagaries of the marketplace as the fruit and vegetable stall or the car industry.



Drug	Manufacturer	Uses	Dosage	NHS price*	Cost to British wholesaler in Europe	Cost to British pharmacist (% discount on cost to NHS)
Tagamet	Smith, Kline (US)	Stomach ulcers	200mg (500 tablets)	£75.65	£60.50	£66.20 (12-5%)
Stugeron Forte	Janssen (Belgium)	Diseased peripheral blood vessels	75mg (100 tablets)	£16.06	£5.20	£9.63 (40%)
Aldomet	Merck, Sharp and Dohme (US)	High blood pressure	250mg (500 tablets)	£27.23	£20.50	£21.78 (20%)
Seprin (Eusaprim in Europe)	Wellcome (UK)	Infections	480mg (500 tablets)	£60.48	£39.31	£40.38 (20%)

*Basic price and does not include dispensing fees and other pharmacists' allowances. All NHS prices will be reduced by 2.5 per cent from August 1, in line with DHSS cuts.

The parallel path to profit

Ventolin is the most commonly prescribed drug in Britain. Most of this country's two million asthmatics will probably take it some time in their lives. Its manufacturer, Glaxo, is not the only one to benefit financially from its success. Ventolin is on the best seller lists of a growing army of people buying drugs cheaply in Europe, importing them to Britain and selling them for profit to pharmacists.

Only Glaxo at one end of the deal and the NHS at the other lose out. Both the wholesaler and the pharmacist make money through "parallel importing" of drugs. Ventolin leaves Glaxo's Merseyside factory stamped with the company's batch numbers and guarantees of quality and safety, ready for export. It is transported to the Continent and stored in the warehouses of Glaxo's subsidiaries.

Wholesalers can buy the drug and sell it in turn to hospitals and chemists, or they may pass it on to British wholesalers, with bases on the Continent. They then reload the

Ventolin back on to trucks and head for the English Channel. The drug, having had the dubious pleasure of a trip round the European country-side, arrives back in Britain a few weeks after it leaves. The only difference is its price.

In Britain the basic cost of a Ventolin inhaler to the NHS is £3. In Europe, British wholesalers involved in parallel importing can buy it for just over half that price: £1.65. They pay the cost of transporting it back to Britain and then charge pharmacists working in local chemists £2.40. The pharmacist charges the NHS the normal recommended price - £3. So he makes 60p on each inhaler and the importer makes 75p.

It may not sound a great deal of money, but that saving is on just one inhaler of one drug. The cost of parallel importing as a whole to the NHS is reckoned to be £50m. Some companies are known to have bigger worldwide price differentials. These include Glaxo, Merck, Sharps and

Dohme and Wellcome. Others, such as Smith, Kline, do not.

Parallel importers like to trade in Ventolin because it has a fast turnover. They can make more money on other drugs, but may not be able to sell them so quickly. Stugeron Forte, for example, is used to dilate blood vessels in the arms and legs. It is made by Janssen a Belgian company, and costs, in Britain, £16.06 for a pack of 100 tablets. In Belgium it can be bought for just over £5, brought to Britain and sold to pharmacists for around £10 - a massive 40 per cent saving on the official NHS price.

Other highly profitable drugs are Adalat, used to treat angina. Aldomet for high blood pressure and Zyloric, for gout. Price reductions depend on how much the pharmacist is buying and how quickly he can pay. But he can make an average saving of 20 to 25 per cent - three to four times that available from the big three British wholesalers who do not practise parallel importing.

TALKBACK

Undercover security

From Mrs Eleanor Tobin, Glencairn Drive, Glasgow

Last Saturday I set off alarm bells in a department store, as happened in the article about being wrongly accused of shoplifting. I was carrying a large carrier bag which contained at least eight items of clothing I had bought during the morning.

As I came off the escalator on to the first floor the security bell rang and I was approached by two members of staff. I think I may have been lucky as they were extremely polite, helpful and reassuring. My innocence seemed to be presumed. After a long search which revealed no tag (I began to think I might be bionic they took each item and passed it through the alarm beam till at last the trousers were declared guilty (bought in another store belonging to the same group).

Eventually from the very bottom of a pocket there emerged a piece of card with a serrated edge. Problem solved. I can't complain about how the incident was handled but it's worrying nonetheless. It could happen to someone less confident than I was. And can one be sure that every security tag had been removed if they bury them deep in a pocket?

From Mrs Cilla Paget, Westcott Road, Old Town, Swindon, Wiltshire.

The recent article by Maureen Park on the misery of being wrongly accused of shoplifting surprises me. The attitude of the lady and the tone of the article seem to be one of the righteous indignation for an event which was untirely, through unfortunately, of her own making. She demands apologies from the shop management where, I would have thought, apologies were due from her. Would there not have been a "regrettable breakdown in the system" if she had walked out with the T-shirt?

From David Lintott, Selbourne Road, Sheffield.

You may be amused or even concerned to know that the day when your First Person article by Maureen Park concerned her wrongful arrest for shoplifting, I was myself accused by an over-zealous employee of one of our major bookshop chain stores.

On leaving the shop, having bought nothing, I had under my arm a copy of *The Times*, and felt the heavy hand of pseudo-authority descend upon my shoulder.

Somewhat with tongue in my cheek I allowed myself to be marched to the manager's office, when that individual became almost apologetic at my silence. I invited him to examine the back page of the paper where I had (almost) com-

pleted the crossword in the train en route to the office this morning. Incidentally, what was 9 across?

Pension board

From Mrs Anne Harris, Chairman, National Federation of Women's Institutes, Eccleston Street, Victoria.

Margaret Drummond's article, "Beware the Small Print," highlighted the little-known areas of discrimination in pension schemes. The problem has two roots: the historical attitude to women's earnings as insignificant pin-money, and the continuing discrimination in the state scheme.

Insignificant women's wages may too often be, but they none the less make an important - and sometimes the only - contribution to their household's budget. The actuarial insistence on regarding women's incomes as in some way different from men's is nicely stigmatized by Robin Ellison, whom you quoted: we should be thinking, as he said, not of men's and women's distinctive needs, but of people's needs.

The fact that the Government refuses to do this in the state scheme, and moreover has made pensions an exception to the terms of the Sexual Discrimination Act is the other side of the problem.

The Occupational Pensions Board, reasonably enough, takes the line that occupational schemes should not be required to provide benefits which the state does not itself provide. This means that the onus in improving the position is on the institutions which set up the schemes, on the employers and on each of us as employees, to see the women and men are treated equitably.

It was in the light (or should I say "the dark") of this inequity that at our AGM the National Federation of Women's Institutes passed, by an overwhelming majority, a resolution urging the provision of equal spouses' benefits in occupational pensions schemes.

From R W Farrington, Marsham Court, London SW1.

Your Wednesday Page article makes the familiar point that women are commonly hard done by in not being able to secure for their husbands an entitlement to widowers' pensions.

It would be as true to say that employed men are generally quite as hard done by.

Contributing as I do, as a civil servant, towards the pension to be paid during the hypothetical widowhood of my non-existent wife, I feel the disadvantageous inequality to which the article refers to bear much more on the male sex.

How to claim benefit and keep the Rolls

Company directors whose firms go into liquidation leaving nothing for a golden handshake may be relieved to learn that there is a possibility that they can hang on to their Rolls-Royces, Cessnas and Camper and Nicholson's and still claim money from the state.

The occasions will, of course, be rare, as is made plain in the S Manual of instructions to supplementary benefit officers, which is now published in fulfilment of the Government's pledge to make the rules public.

No-one can receive supplementary benefits if he has capital of £2,500 or more, rising to £3,000 in November. But deciding what counts towards that capital limit is one of the tasks facing supplementary benefit officers when faced with an initial claim.

The S Manual tells them that

COMMENT

ordinary personal possessions, like a The S Manual tells them that ordinary personal possessions, like a house and furniture are not to be taken into account. But the value of possessions like paintings, jewelry or a vintage car are to be counted if bought instead of putting the money into safe investment places, like deposit accounts or building societies. The S Manual says dryly "This is likely to arise only very rarely."

In such cases, it is not the value of the possession that counts, but the intention when it was bought. The reverse is true of luxury items that are incompatible with the standard of living of other people on supplementary benefit.

It would be unreasonable to disregard the possession of a very expensive car, a yacht or an aircraft, although they are not always quite so effective when there is a larger dose of germs taken in contaminated food. All tourists going to less hygienic parts of the world are recommended to have this injection, particularly if, unlike Dr van Heyningen, they are not determined to eat their meals, except at the occasional curry, in a five star hotel.

Even if the supplementary benefit officer decides that the former company director was living only up to the standards of his peers, but it would be unfair to disregard the Cessna, there is still a let-out clause. If it would take time to realize its value, he must consider whether to make an urgent needs payment to tide the claimant over.

It is different at the other end of the scale. Supplementary benefits

are supposed to be sufficient for normal clothing and footwear and, except in cases of exceptional hardship, lump sum grants are no longer payable to replace them.

But if items regarded as essential are damaged, destroyed or stolen, lump sums can be paid to replace them. The manual says two pairs of shoes per person are essential.

The rules cover all kinds of other obscure cases, including instructions on how to deal with claims from a polygamous household. In that case, the second or subsequent spouse is to be treated as needing to live on the difference between the rate for a couple and a single householder: an amount that works out at less than the normal rate paid to an 18-year-old school leaver still living at home.

Pat Healy
Social Services correspondent

Knowing schizophrenia

Many doctors who suffer from a disease later become an expert in its treatment; by the very nature of the symptoms this is unlikely to occur if they

develop schizophrenia. A mother with psychiatric training would make a good substitute for such a doctor, particularly if she has watched the disease change her son from a stimulating independent and imaginative schoolboy to a withdrawn, confused Oxford undergraduate and much later a bizarre petty thief. She would develop an understanding of schizophrenia, its problems and its treatment denied to those who have only seen patients in a clinic, a ward or at a formal consultation. Just such a mother, Naomi Smith, helped by Dr Derek Richter, former director of the Mental Health Foundation, had written a book full of perception and minute observation. If read by the families of sufferers they may learn that their son, parent or spouse is not just being more bloody minded than usual, but is displaying well-recorded symptoms.

Schizophrenia is obviously Naomi Smith's great interest, but the book also deals in detail with depression and other common psychiatric diseases. She illustrates her text with pertinent case histories selected either from past or present public figures or from her own experience when working in hospitals in America, Britain, Australia and, during the war, the Far East.

Naomi Smith told *The Times* that this book was an attempt to excite in the British general public a greater interest in mental disorders. She had always noted the contrast between the knowledge and understanding displayed by the Americans and the indifference of the British, but only when her own son was a patient did she realize how damaging this could be.

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Watch the water

Dr William van Heyningen, former Master of St Cross College, has recently retired from the Oxford School of Pathology and the US National Institute of Health Cholera Advisory Committee and the Cholera Research Laboratory at Dacca, but has remained as outspoken as ever over the problems of gastrointestinal infections.

Travellers and tourists in his view catch typhoid, cholera, food poisoning and many forms of hepatitis because they eat known firms, ice creams and shellfish, which have an ability to concentrate micro-organisms in the body.

One of Dr van Heyningen's major interests has been in cholera control; he feels, and most experts agree, that the present cholera injection is practically useless; it stimulates antibody formation in the wrong parts of the body. Cholera is a disease of the intestines and it is in the intestines that the antibodies must be operative. Doctors are now working on a vaccine which can be given by mouth and which will provide the resistance where it is needed. Typhoid infections are still

Safe drug

This year it may not be a glorious twelfth on the grouse-starved Scottish moors, but it is for your friendly neighbourhood chemist who always feels frustrated that he spent many years learning pharmacy, only to find that when qualified his income is dependant on the sale of hot water bottles, lipstick and cameras.

As from today the pharmacist will be able to supervise the sale, without a doctor's prescription, of a powerful, but safe drug, ibu-profen. It is one of the post-war, post-aspirin, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, invaluable in the treatment of various forms of rheumatism, muscular aches and pains, and headaches. Some of this group, including ibu-profen, are very useful for treating painful periods.

Professor Stuart Adams of the University of Nottingham, who also works for Boots Research, says that it has been on prescription since 1969 and has proved a very safe drug for people of all age groups.

Sales of ibu-profen, which will be sold to the public under the trade name of Nurofen, one unlikely to be affected by the adverse publicity engendered by Opren. Although a member of the same family of drugs, is so distantly related to Nurofen that, in the view of Professor Adams, it would be unfair to consider it even as a fifth cousin.

Only middling

Politics in relation to aging is, as the Prime Minister has discovered, an irrational subject. Since she has none of the usual predisposing causes for a normal loss we must assume that this occurred as a complication of the normal middle aged retraction of the vitreous jelly within the eye; this is no more sign of sickness or overwork than other politician's baldness, greying or corpulence.

Coughs and sneezes....

Mothers who spend the winter months writing sick notes explaining the absence of their children from school may be glad to hear that science confirms their suspicions: their children's coughs and colds could be related to the low temperature of some classrooms, and the dry atmosphere.

Mr G H Green from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Saskatchewan has collected evidence which shows that the control of temperature and humidity in communal buildings should be precise, as when all variations are likely to have an appreciable effect on the incidence of sneezing, coughing, sore throats and fever, but had no effect in regard to tummy upsets or urinary tract disorders. An interesting and unexplained finding was that foot infections are less common in correctly humidified surroundings.

Although most of the work quoted was written about conditions in American or Swiss schools or barracks, O M Lidwell and his team have in the past published similar findings on the epidemiology of the common cold in British schools. Investigations have shown that there is a relative humidity which micro-organisms find particularly hostile; over or above that figure a greater percentage survive longer, not all these survivors will remain infectious, but the drying of the nasal passages as the humidity falls may encourage infection.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

THE TIMES Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

In harmony: The Three Choirs Festival

An unpublished story: Daisy Ashford, author of *The Young Visitors*, on the Pope's "first visit to Britain"



Travel: Fare deals from the airlines; the Algarve; at peace in Sussex

Family money: Happy returns from building societies

Sport: Winners take all in the third Test

Plus

All the news from home and abroad: Drink on the Peter Dominic chain; Paperbacks of the month. Critics' choice of the coming week's events in the arts

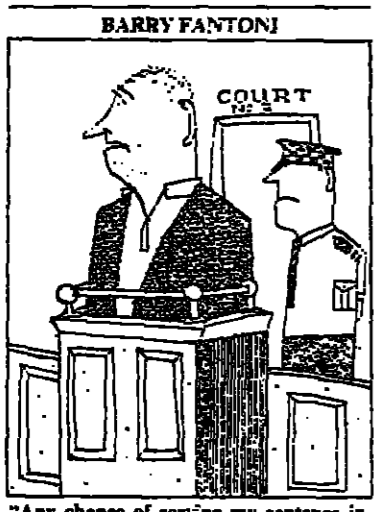
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**THE TIMES
DIARY**

Poll stars

Saatchi and Saatchi have just won yet another election. Margaret Thatcher's favourite advertising agency were called in at short notice to put the finishing touches to President Shehu Shagari's successful bid for re-election in Nigeria. Saatchi are getting a little blasé about such achievements. When I called to congratulate them, the account executive to whom I was connected said: "President Who?"

Tripe in, tripe out

Sir Brian Hayes, permanent secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, recently inspected the DTI's computer centre at Eastcote. At his last department, Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Hayes fulfilled a similar engagement and fed into one of the computers the name of the chief regional officer who was standing beside him boasting of the equipment's capacity for storing information about personnel. The computer responded: "No such officer exists." Determined not to embarrass an underling again, at Eastcote, Hayes tapped his own name into the data system. It promptly provided him with full details of the Hayes Tripe Company.



"Any chance of serving my sentence in Geneva, Your Honour?"

Labour of love

Publisher Aidan Ellis took to last year's Frankfurt Book Fair designs by Jonathan Biggs for *The Pop-Up Kama Sutra*. He sold £100,000 worth of rights in five hours. It has taken more than a year, though, to find anyone to print the book. Pop-up specialists are in Colombia (strictly for military purposes), Singapore (moral law), and Czechoslovakia (inability to promise how many copies of anything so deliciously decadent would ever leave the factory). Finally the contract will go either to Spain or Hongkong and the book, which Ellis promises will be both tasteful and funny, should appear in October 1984.

Poor layer

From Qatar a reader writes of a recent trip on an Inter-City 125. His order for bacon and eggs in the buffet met a refusal "because we have no eggs", followed swiftly by the offer of a bacon-and-egg sandwich. How could this be? "We do the eggs in the microwave oven and they don't look too good. But you don't see them in a sandwich."

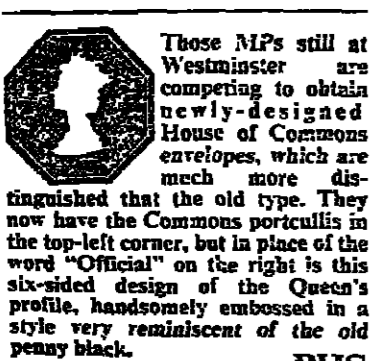
Tooth's gap

A missing picture of the artist's wife is being urgently sought for the first full-scale exhibition since 1960 of the work of Sir Matthew Smith, whom Augustus John called one of the most individual figures in modern English painting. It is the only portrait Smith made of his wife Gwendoline, sister of Air Marshal Sir John Salmond. Painted in 1912, it was last heard of in 1978 when Tooth's sold it to a John Leslie who gave his address as c/o the Crown Commissioners. The commissioners have no knowledge of him. Vera Russell, who has chosen 30 paintings for the exhibition, which opens at the Barbican art gallery next month, says the tribute will not be complete without the missing canvas.

● A man called Fried in New York sells carpets. Accordingly his shop-front fascia says: *Fried Carpets*.

Humble pie

The great Cornish pasty competition ended yesterday, leaving the judges unanimously convinced that Mum baked better. Tesco arranged it, after their claim that their pasties were "as Cornish as they come" had excited some derision. They got 3,000 recipes, of which 10 were short-listed and cooked for the judges. The proper pasty is large, includes potatoes that are sliced, not diced, meat in chunks, not minced, pastry that is hard, not rich or crumbly, and edges curled so that tin miners with arsenic on their fingers could safely hold the crust and throw away that contaminated bit when the rest was eaten. David Penhaligon, Truro's MP who chaired the panel, said Commons pasties were "unimpeachable". After this experience he had new respect for his wife's pasties, his mother's, "and my mother-in-law's too, of course".



Those MPs still at Westminster are competing to obtain newly-designed House of Commons envelopes, which are much more distinguished than the old type. They now have the Commons porcupine in the top-left corner, but in place of the word "Official" on the right is this six-sided design of the Queen's profile, handsomely embossed in a style very reminiscent of the old penny black.

Famine, the forgotten enemy

Food has been so plentiful in Britain for so long that a sudden disruption in supply is hard to imagine. Hermann Bondi, John C. Bowman and Jonathan Bates warn how it could happen in war - even non-nuclear

Though the linkage between war and hunger is well established, there is a tendency to forget how much starvation can contribute to the horrors that arise from a conflict. We remember the damage and death resulting from high-level bombing of cities during the Second World War to a far greater extent than the deaths caused by shortage of food. Of course, this can be partly explained by the fact that in Britain we did not suffer from shortages to the extent that real hunger resulted and that in the United States and Canada food supply was never a problem.

This state of affairs did not apply to other countries, either in the industrialized or less-developed world, where the effects of disruption to the production and distribution of food had massive and horrific effects.

The siege of Leningrad, which lasted for some 900 days, resulted in a shortage of food such as no other industrialized city has ever experienced. More than half the population is thought to have perished from hunger. Equally, we tend to forget that the last winter of the Second World War led to such shortages of food in The Netherlands that only a few months before the liberation there was doubt whether the Dutch population would survive at all. Starvation was also a real issue in Rome during the dreadful last winter before liberation.

Even these events pale beside the great Bengal famine of 1942, which arose out of the disruption to supplies of food from countries further east, notably Thailand and Burma, as a direct consequence of the global conflict. Twenty million people are supposed to have perished from hunger in Bengal. Nearly the same total died in the Soviet Union as a result of direct enemy action, yet the devastation in Bengal is barely remembered outside the Indian subcontinent.

During this century methods of agricultural production in the industrialized world have been

changing rapidly, largely because of a substantial increase in mechanized methods. Whereas the horse was once the major means of power and transport, we are now dependent on the tractor, which in turn depends on oil. In Britain alone this has released almost 10 million acres of land previously used to produce food for horses to produce food for people.

The genetic potential of crops has also increased, the application of appropriate levels of fertilizers and pesticides has become routine and the cultivation of land and harvesting of crops takes place at the optimum time because of new machinery. Yields of the important staple grains are now virtually independent of the vagaries of climate.

Livestock production has undergone a similar revolution. Cattle, pigs and poultry are now housed in heated and ventilated buildings with piped water and mechanized feeding. Vastly improved methods of hygiene, together with vaccines and medicines, control the most significant disease problems. Automated manure disposal, machine milking and automatic egg collection contribute to the low levels of labour required for livestock husbandry. All these systems depend on regular, uninterrupted supplies of electricity, liquid fuel and gas, and water.

While these changes have been taking place, a revolution has occurred in food distribution. Whereas distribution was once based around local markets and small, independent shops selling fresh produce, we now have a complex chain of food processing organizations, transferring farm

produce from the countryside to a largely urban population. Food processing and distribution have become complex activities, heavily dependent on techniques such as pasteurization, freezing, freeze-drying and the application of chemical additives for preservation.

However, the effect of these changes has been to increase sharply the vulnerability of the food production supply chain. There are three critically essential inputs to the modern agricultural system: fossil fuels, electricity and water. A disruption to the availability of any, even for a few days, would have serious consequences. There are just not enough people available to milk cows by hand. Equally, if the electricity fails there will be no way to save the bulk of the milk produced. In the absence of water and ventilation, poultry in battery cages and broiler houses would have to be killed. Without fossil fuels it would become extremely difficult to distribute food.

The short-term consequences of any disruption to the system would be noticeable in towns and cities within weeks. We would soon see a sharp reduction in supplies of frozen goods, milk and eggs. While the staple foods such as grain and potatoes would not be so quickly affected the consequences of disruption for more than six months would be severe. As a conventional war dragged on, the availability of liquid fuels and machinery spares would become even more restricted, with inevitable consequences.

Though Britain managed to survive on a minimal diet during the Second World War this was mainly because a relatively large supply of

food and machinery reached this country from the United States and Canada. Of course, 40 years on, British agriculture has become more efficient and has a greatly increased output. However, modern warfare is also vastly more precise than it was 40 years ago. Even if we totally ignore the nuclear dimension, well-directed attacks on power stations, water treatment plants, spare parts depots and fertilizer factories could completely disrupt our agricultural system, reducing production by perhaps four-fifths. The same would apply elsewhere in the industrialized world. The action of an enemy need not be directed even to food production centres, because power stations, distribution and transport networks and fuel depots would be natural targets in any conflict.

One should not ignore the possible effects of such a breakdown in the food distribution system on ordered behaviour. The possibility of a situation arising in which food was available only to a limited or to a selected part of the population would lead to wide-scale civil disorder. One may equally imagine the effects of hunger on a nation which possesses nuclear weapons but does not wish to use them. If the inhabitants of Leningrad had known of such a major weapon they would eventually have used it, no matter how greatly this offended their moral principles. Hunger is a powerful force.

So, important as it is that the nuclear debate continues, the aim of any national policy of national security must not confine itself to avoiding nuclear war or suggest that conventional war is in any way acceptable; it must concentrate on the overriding need to avoid all forms of war.

Sir Hermann Bondi, previously Chief Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence, and Dr Bowman, previously Director of the Centre for Agricultural Strategy, are now chairman and secretary of the Natural Environment Research Council. Jonathan Bates is a freelance writer.

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George Walden

Why we must not desert Belize

In March 1981 I drank a glass or two of champagne in No 1 Carlton Gardens after the negotiation of an outline agreement on the long-standing dispute between Belize and Guatemala. The champagne was a bit sweet, the hour a bit early and the celebration premature. The agreement was later turned down by Guatemala's leaders.

Today, the problems arising from the Guatemalan claim to the whole territory of Belize are still there. So are the British troops and Harriers "for an appropriate period". But Belize is still there, too, and by Central American standards thriving. Two questions remain: where is it, and why are we still there?

Churchill once said that he did not know where Guatemala (or presumably Belize) was and he was not going to start finding out so late in public life. In fact Belize sits facing Cuba on the Atlantic coast just below Mexico, its frontier with Guatemala suspiciously squared off. It is not seething with subversion, but a stable democracy with unarmed policemen.

George Price, the Prime Minister and leader of the main political party, the People's United Party, is something of an ascetic. A devout Catholic, he drives an old Land-Rover, works hard, and is untainted by corruption. His quiet, serious manner is effective internationally. The economy, based on sugar, fruit, fishing and forestry, has been buffeted by the recession, but has held up reasonably well with aid from Britain, the US, Canada and Mexico. The population is tiny: 150,000.

My fellow champagne drinkers on the Belize side were ethnically variegated. The country is an example of successful miscegenation, with Carib Indians, Hispanics, descendants of black slaves and now some Asians living together with little difficulty. Price himself has Welsh and African ancestry. The country is equally colourful. It is mostly jungle, with village names like "Double Headed Cabbage" and "Banana Bank", huge tarantulas, frogs that jump at you (spring chickens), parrots and Booby birds. The Victorians made furniture from its mahogany, and the Americans chewing gum from its sapodilla trees.

The dispute with Guatemala revolves around an obscure quarrel about a road. The 1859 treaty by which the Guatemalans recognized the frontiers of Belize (then British Honduras) spoke of linking Guatemala City to the Atlantic coast. The British showed willing, but in the end the treaty was denounced by the Guatemalans, who decided to claim the whole of Belize instead. The claim was written into their constitution in 1946, thereby engaging national pride (another reason for not having consultations).

There seems no reason for Mr Price to save this aside by dismembering his country, especially in the run-up to next year's election, which will be the first since independence in 1981. The British case has been frequently supported by the United Nations Organization, which has now also endorsed Belize's right to independence, self-determination and territorial integrity.

In 1981, the question facing the British Government was whether, after 18 years of sporadic negotiations, to continue delaying Belizean independence because of the Guatemalan claim. It was rightly decided to call their bluff, unless a settlement could be reached first.

The abortive "heads of agreement" signed at Carlton Gardens was at once an ingenious and practical affair (Nicholas Ridley led the British team). The Belizeans were strongly against any territorial concessions: so the agreement revolved around some small blocks of periodically submerged sand off the coast which Mr Price was taken to see in a British plane.

There was a bit of bluffing and puffing from President Lucas Garcia when we went ahead with independence later in 1981, and Belize has lived in the shadow of the claim ever since. But the threat should not be exaggerated. Belize has the moral support of the UN and Latin America, and is recognized by most of European and Third World countries. It is also a member of the Commonwealth, the World Bank, the IMF and Caricom (the Caribbean Community), which has pledged full diplomatic support for its integrity.

Not is the military situation too precarious. The British garrison (bolstered by training teams) is small, but highly professional and well equipped. The Guatemalans have their hands full with subversion and coups, and any attempt to divert attention from internal problems by lunging at Belize would also divert troops from anti-guerrilla duties. The new President, Mejia Victores, a professional soldier like his predecessor, will presumably be aware of this factor.

But it is not a happy situation for Britain. We do not like having troops in an independent country in a volatile part of the world, and in a situation not totally under our control. What if the Guatemalan guerrillas war overtook, as in El Salvador, with refugees, close pursuit and the rest? Moreover the cost of the garrison, though not remotely comparable to that of the Falklands, represents an unwelcome charge on our forces and on the Treasury. All this argues for getting out as soon as some agreement with the Guatemalans or regional security arrangements can be negotiated.

There is another way to look at the problem. It is no secret that a discreet British presence in the combustible Central American area is comforting to Washington in these uncertain times. We cannot and should not become involved in the wars of the region. But we can, and perhaps should, avoid any precipitate movement out of Belize which might add to Washington's headaches. Seen in this light, our presence is an honourable and effective contribution to our ally's search for stability in an area of crucial security interest to it.

And such is international morality that many of those who accused us of staying too long in our own territory in the South Atlantic would be the first to criticize us for moving too soon out of somebody else's.

The author, Conservative MP for Buckingham, was formerly Lord Carrington's private secretary.

Philip Howard

Dog-knobbler days with the beagles

When August with his driving rain has washed away the heatwave of July, then good hacks long to go on holiday. They have unchained us from our typewriters at the word-factory and we have scattered around the nooks and crannies of the world, blinking a little in the sunlight like canaries escaping from our gilded cages.

The place to go on holiday is somewhere quite different, where people know nothing and care less about the *sturm und drang* of daily journalism, where the phone rings only for talk about country matters, and where the most exciting event of the week is the price of black-faced sheep at the market.

Such a place is darkest Ayrshire, which has been mercifully untouched by history since our rude forefathers of the Stone Age built their circular huts on the damp and barren hills. Agricola's legions passed through and left not a Roman rucksack behind there. There have been convicts and other little disturbances of life. But the locals were, as usual, too busy killing deer to pay much attention.

That was a use of deer in its original meaning of an animal of any sort; of Shakespeare's "rats and mice and such small deer" where he was not being facetious or cute. The German counterpart of the word, *Tier*, has retained its original meaning of any old animal, as in *Tiergarten*, an animal garden or zoo. In Scottish and English the word has changed its meaning to signify one kind of animal only, the kind with antlers that our Notting Hill beagles chase through the bracken. Diana only knows what they will do if they ever catch up with one.

Up here in Ayrshire the locals are still busy slaughtering animals of all kinds, minding their own business, and letting the rest of the world go by. Not a ripple of the troubles of Central America or the tedious contest for the leadership of the Labour Party disturbs the even tenor of the columns of the local newspaper, which are full of television and football candy floss, and pictures of brides with grooms in kilts and mothers with bonny babies, and the bard stuff of fatstock prices.

The estimation of journalism as a way of earning a living has not



Hawking on horseback: a seventeenth-century engraving

Few species of falcon can take grouse consistently or well. The Italian count hunts with a gyrfalcon, a large and beautiful Arctic species with plumage the colour of birch bark and lichen. In the medieval pecking order, gyrfalcons were assigned to no one below the rank of king; in a show of conspicuous onepmanship, Genghis Khan hunted with 20 of them from a pаланquin borne on the backs of four elephants. Nowadays, most grouse-hawkers use peregrines - only fit for a prince according to the fifteenth-century *Boke of St Albans*, but universally recognized as possessing the ideal combination of speed, stamina and tractability.

One of the best peregrines that will be taking the field this year is Melody, a six-year-old female bird that was taken as a nestling - or, in falconer's parlance, an intermedwed cypress falcon. In fact, there is no term in falconry adequately to describe Melody's ancestry, for she was hatched in captivity from an artificially inseminated egg. With a virtual ban on taking wild peregrines since the population crash of the 1960s, most falconers this season will be flying birds bred in captivity by methods developed at Cornell University.

If Melody is flown today, she will be taken from her mew in the morning and offered a bath, since a falcon that is flown without bathing is likely to rake away in search of water. When she has bathed she will preen - a lengthy process carried out as meticulously as the servicing of a jet fighter. Sometime during the morning she will probably cast up a pellet of undigested feathers and after

that she will be noticeably keener - cyeing birds invisible to the human eye and grabbing flies out of the air like a punfighter testing his reflexes. About noon she will be placed on a set of scales to see if she is at her ideal flying weight; too heavy and she will fly half-heartedly, too light and she will lack the power to get on terms with her quarry. For her journey to the moor she will be fitted with hood and jesses cut to patterns that have hardly changed since the days of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II; then she will be equipped with a microchip radio transmitter weighing next to nothing, able to emit signals audible up to nine miles away. She will travel to the moor with two English pointers.

There is a good chance that Melody will not kill a grouse today, but her condition will harden with each day that she flies, until by the end of the season she will be able to cut through a gale like a knife and kill a grouse stone dead from her first stoop. Last year she took 20 brace of grouse in six weeks. By shooting standards that is a pathetically poor return, but then - clichéd as the sentiment may be - it is not the bag that counts.

If Melody performs as well as she did on her final flight last season, her owner will be more than compensated for his investment of time and effort. The fruitless days with recalcitrant dogs, the weary searches for a lost hawk. On a gold and mauve evening last October, the two pointers quartered the moor, distantly acknowledging each other as they passed. The ground-eating lops was abruptly checked as both dogs froze on point, trembling as if a

current were being passed through their bodies.

Melody was unhooded, but she showed no hurry to fly. She roused and bobbed her head, then, as a breeze caught her, relaxed her grip on the gawtlet and was airborne. She clipped over the dogs' heads and began mounting in wide circles, occasionally looking down to check on the position of the field. At 400 feet she made a narrow turn and rested on the wind, indicating that she would climb no higher.

For a few seconds the falconer contemplated the scene he had orchestrated. In the stillness before the grouse is flushed, there is a tangible sense of communion between the falconer, the dogs standing rigidly on point and the tiny silhouette drawn taut as a bow against the sky.

The grouse burst out of the heather, Melody turned over and drew in her wings, falling like a teardrop and parting the air with a sound like tearing paper. There was no sense of violent contact - just a puff of feathers and a dark shape tumbling to the ground. Melody was already plucking the grouse by the time the falconer reached the spot where it had fallen.

Today there will be a race to set the first grouse of the season on some select West End table. If Melody does kill on her first outing, her falconer will not only take vicarious pride in her achievement, but can sit down to eat without having to worry about damaging his teeth on lead shot.

Windsor Chorlton

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FEUDS IN THE CHOUF

The release of the three kidnapped members of the Lebanese government, though a relief in itself, has certainly not resolved the crisis in the Chouf, that beautiful and fertile area of Mount Lebanon south-east of Beirut in which is concentrated the greater part of the country's Druze population.

Kidnapping cabinet ministers may seem an excessively violent and dramatic way to make a political point. Even in Lebanon, such methods cannot be condoned. But this latest act of force was not sudden or unprovoked. It merely marked a small escalation in a conflict that has been going on for over a year.

Some would say for over a century. The conflict between Druze and Maronites, the two historic communities of Mount Lebanon, goes back to the mid nineteenth century, when the Maronite peasantry of the mountain rose in revolt against the feudal shaikhs, most of whom were Druze. In the course of this jacquerie massacres occurred, the worst being carried out against the Maronites by Druze shaikhs and their partisans. French intervention then led to the disappearance of the old Emirate of Lebanon with its feudal order and the creation of a more centralised government under a Christian (but non-Lebanese) governor. Many Druzes emigrated to Syria, leaving the Maronites a clear majority.

The remaining Druzes continue to feel they have at least as good a right as the Maronites to regard themselves as the founders and guardians of Lebanese identity, whereas the other communities - Sunni and Shia Muslims, Melchite Christians - have tended to direct their loyalty towards foci outside Lebanon's frontiers: many, indeed, were only brought within those frontiers by their extension under the French mandate to form the Etat du Grand-Liban.

Regarding each other as authentically Lebanese, Maronite and Druze coexisted fairly successfully until the civil war of

1975 found them on opposite sides, partly because the outstanding Druze leader Kamal Jumblatt found his ambitions frustrated in a political system which gave the dominant role to the Maronites and the secondary one to Sunni Muslims. Jumblatt, a curious mixture of feudal landlord, social democrat, mystic and third-world liberationist, made himself the leader of the Lebanese "left" and formed an alliance with the Palestinian resistance movement in the hope of breaking this confessional system. In the process he antagonized his Maronite compatriots, including those (notably the Phalangists) who shared his ideal of a modernized non-confessional Lebanon but could not stomach his Palestinian allies.

Ironically, it was not Maronite resistance but Syrian intervention that deprived Jumblatt of his victory. In fact there was no serious fighting between Maronite and Druze in the Chouf until after Israeli forces occupied the area last year. The Phalangists, at that time allied to Israel, seized the opportunity to send troops into the area, and the Israelis unwisely allowed them to do so. The Phalange was a new element in the Chouf, whose Maronite inhabitants had traditionally been supporters of former President Camille Chamoun; and, by most accounts, the Phalangist interlopers behaved with no great tact.

Their attitude was that of the new masters of Lebanon, rather than of people seeking to heal the wounds of civil war and build a new national unity - a unity for which there were then some genuine prospects, since most Druzes and Muslims had come to share their antipathy towards the Palestinians. They insulted Emir Majid Arslan, the aged rival of the Jumblatts, and treated all armed Druzes, of whatever political persuasion, as "communists". Inevitably, a series of armed clashes began.

Many Lebanese believe that this conflict has been deliberately fomented by the Israelis on

the principle of divide and rule. That may be an oversimplification. It is probable that the Israelis initially intended to help their Phalangist allies whom, during the lifetime of Bashir Gemayel, they saw as the nucleus of a new and friendly Lebanon. Later their relations with the Phalangists worsened. In recent weeks the Israelis have been allowing the Druzes to obtain heavy weapons, and have given up any attempt to prevent shelling by either side. It seems probable that they hope to retain some gratitude and co-operation among the Druzes after their own withdrawal from the Chouf.

It appears that the Druzes are thus receiving tacit encouragement from Israel, as well as overt encouragement from Syria, to resist any attempt by President Amin Gemayel to impose his authority in the Chouf by sending in the Lebanese army. The Druzes see President Gemayel as a Phalangist president, and his army - especially under its present commander, General Ibrahim Tannous - as virtually a Phalangist army. Matters are further complicated by the fact that Kamal Jumblatt's role as Druze leader has been inherited by his son Walid, a highly unstable individual who has backed into the arms of that very Syrian regime which is universally held responsible for his father's assassination, and on its instigation has repudiated the legitimacy of President Gemayel because of the Israeli-Lebanese accord.

Lebanon cannot be revived unless the authority of the state and the president are accepted. But equally Lebanon will not be Lebanon if that authority has to be imposed on the Druzes without their consent. In any case, few who know the Chouf will believe that that can be done, and it would be a reckless Multinational Force officer who undertook to help do it. Difficult though it may be, the Druzes' consent must be sought and their aspirations respected.

THE HOW AND WHY OF THE HOW AND WHY

There are good reasons why successive governments should embark on the reorganization of the five research councils, the autonomous agencies which support research in agriculture, medicine, the natural environment, social science and science in general. For in their own estimation, the councils play a central role in the conduct of non-military research in Britain. Collectively, they spend more than £500 million a year on a great variety of activities.

The objective set for the councils is twofold - to enlarge the body of useful knowledge in fields such as agriculture, medicine and, fashionably, information technology, and to complement the support for scientific research in higher education that is normally provided by the University Grants Committee, in which the Science and Engineering Research Council predominates. The Government's recurring difficulty is that these two functions seem always to be unhappily married.

This no doubt is why Sir Ronald Mason has been asked to conduct a one-man inquiry into the organization of the research councils. Evidence that the system is not functioning as

intended has been accumulating for some time. Only last year, the Advisory Board for the Research Councils, which advises on the division of the science budget among the research councils argued that the dual-support system for university research is breaking down. Part of the reason is that universities are skimping on research support. Meanwhile, doubts have arisen about the clarity of purpose with which the research councils seek to accumulate useful knowledge.

All this implies that the outcome of the last upheaval in the affairs of the research councils, that recommended by Lord Rothschild in 1971, has not worked as intended. The plan then was that the applied research carried out by the research councils should be financed not by the Department of Education and Science but by the ministries most directly concerned, which were to equip themselves for their role as "customers" by appointing chief scientists capable of insisting on value for money from their contractors, the research councils. The experience of the past decade has been disappointing.

Sir Ronald Mason thus has a splendid opportunity. The Roth-

schild reorganization has not produced the upheaval intended but, rather, stasis. Too many research institutes have escaped the close examination of their function that might have been expected. Sir Ronald cannot in the two months allowed him suggest what happens to each of them, but he could usefully suggest some means by which their future is not entirely in the gift of the research councils which created them.

The most serious problem is the Science and Engineering Research Council, intended exclusively for the support of research in higher education. Universities may not be pulling their weight in the dual-support system, but the council itself has become too deeply committed to large central laboratories to be flexible. It is too ready to succumb to fashion (such as that for information technology) and to defend anomalies such as its ownership of nearly a hundred houses in Oxfordshire against the criticisms of the Rayner-unit. Mason needs a way of making this council into the instrument the research community needs most urgently - not just a paymaster but a leader for Britain's splendid but demoralized research.

THE BULLY OF THE BALTIC

The meeting of Prime Ministers of the Nordic countries which has just occurred in Helsinki resurrected the proposal for a Nordic nuclear-free zone. Promoted by the USSR and its allies since the 1950s, it has had strong advocates in the Nordic countries themselves, particularly in neutral Finland and Sweden. In the Nato members, Norway and Denmark, advocates of the proposal are also to be found. The appeal is emotional rather than logical.

Popular support for a Nordic nuclear-free zone tends to fluctuate with the East-West political climate. Events such as the invasion of Afghanistan, imposition of martial law in Poland, Soviet submarines and bombers violating Scandinavian territory, all make the proposal appear less sensible, while the possible deployment of new US missiles in Western Europe, Soviet counter-threats and general stalemate at the Geneva talks, seem to increase its appeal.

The USSR promotes the concept largely for propaganda purposes in an attempt to present Soviet policy as one of peace. But the possibility, however remote, that Nato could be weakened by banning nuclear weapons from Norway and Denmark even in time of war, is sufficiently attractive to be worth some effort. For Nato countries

the idea suffers from fundamental defects: Soviet superiority in conventional forces would present an even greater threat since Nato's flexibility in responding to aggression would be reduced and the deterrent effect of the alliance damaged. The Nordic countries would still be in danger of nuclear attack because of the range of weapons deployed outside the proposed nuclear-free zone.

Soviet divisions in East Germany are equipped with nuclear weapons, and the Leningrad military district has missiles covering the whole Baltic area. In the Kola Peninsula alone there are dozens of airfields, two major bases for land-based nuclear missiles, and port facilities at Murmansk for nuclear-armed submarines.

There seems little possibility that the Kola and Baltic bases of the USSR would be included in any agreement. Appeals circulated clandestinely in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia asking that the peoples of these Soviet-controlled republics be allowed some say in discussions of the Baltic zone have resulted in KGB persecution of those involved. Swedish suggestions that a nuclear-free zone must include inspection of Soviet submarine bases in the Baltic were greeted with stony silence in Moscow. When the Finnish President

Mauno Koivisto visited Moscow in June to extend the Soviet-Finnish friendship treaty for a further twenty years, the question of freeing the Baltic Sea from nuclear weapons was discussed. However, the only precise Soviet offer in this direction concerns the removal of six Golf class submarines which are already obsolete and likely to be replaced anyway.

Verification of any agreement would be extremely difficult. The USSR has never acknowledged properly Swedish protests about the repeated violations of Sweden's territorial waters by Soviet submarines and the defiant Soviet reply to the public outcry in 1981 when a submarine ran aground near the Karlskrona naval base ignored the government's concern that it was armed with nuclear weapons.

The USSR is the only Baltic country with nuclear bases. The Nato members, Norway and Denmark, do not permit nuclear weapons on their territory in peacetime. Attempts to persuade them to ban Nato allies from bringing such weapons to Scandinavia even in wartime have not been successful, despite the efforts of Soviet diplomacy, communist parties, peace movements and the speeches of the former Finnish President Urho Kekkonen who for decades advocated the nuclear-free zone.

Places in society for young and old

From the Director of Population Concern

Sir, I refer to your article on the cost of pensions for the elderly in the next century (July 30) in which your correspondent expresses the fear that a low birthrate means it is likely to be accompanied by a shrinking proportion of the population of working age and that if the birthrate remains low "the burden of supporting the nation's elderly will be even greater".

There is no serious basis for this fear. Children, as well as old people, have to be supported by people of working age and are just as much of a "burden" on society.

A rough measure of dependency is the ratio of the number of those people of pensionable age and those under the age of 16 to the population of working age. Total dependency is lower for a lower birthrate (given constant death rates for each age group). Even if, as the birthrate falls, the percentage of the elderly increases at first, their numbers can be known well in advance and planned for accordingly.

On the other hand the financial burden on society of extra children is considerable. Their needs differ from those of the older generation, but they cost no less. Whereas the old incur high costs in pensions, and residential and medical care, the young incur the cost of education and mother-and-child health services.

Bearing in mind that many retired people can still contribute usefully to society, it seems probable that the burden of a dependent child is overall at least as high as that of a retired person.

We should take the long view: once a more or less stable population at a lower size were achieved, the number of old people in the population would also stabilize at a perfectly normal proportion. To conclude that there is a fear of an overwhelming burden of old people is one of the least defensible arguments used to advocate an increase in the birthrate for the United Kingdom.

It should finally be remembered that this argument is deployed in an economic setting in which there have been over a million unemployed since August, 1975, and where overmanning is estimated at several millions. It seems illogical to argue that a fall in the birthrate will produce enough economically active people in the future when there are not enough jobs for those wanting employment now.

The effect of the continuing fall in the number of children born per family will be to increase the material standard of living of those

Letters to the Editor

From Professor P. N. Campbell

Sir, Although I am not qualified to practise medicine, I found your leading article, "Physicians, heal thyself" (August 10), deeply disturbing. Following as it did three articles on so-called "alternative medicine" ("Spectrum", August 8, 9, 10) I have to conclude that you set out not only to be provocative but also derogatory of the medical profession in this country.

From the Director of Age Concern, England, and others

Sir, As four British members of an international working group brought together by the World Health Organization to prepare material on self-care and health promotion among the elderly, we were encouraged to read Robert Bessell's letter (August 6), with its warning about the destructiveness of describing old people as a burden on the working population.

Setting aside the benefits we all derive from their past endeavours, in peace and war, we also recognize their immense contribution to our present wellbeing in a number of ways.

In many cases they do provide direct economic benefits by their work, and they are all consumers. Those who were made to retire on an arbitrary date cannot then be blamed for leaving the labour force.

The voluntary sector, properly valued by the Government, owes much of its strength to the accumulated skills and sense of continuing responsibility of those in later life.

As it happens, pensioners are the one group who pay twice for any inpatient care they receive in hospital through loss in pension. And, of equal importance, they provide stability in family life in practical ways as carers, as well as the generational links which give us our sense of continuity.

The contribution of older people to the arts, humanities, the professions and politics is generally recognized; but those who are less eminent do much to enrich younger lives as any fortunate grandchild could testify.

Yours etc, DAVID HOBBMAN (Age Concern, England), JOHN HUNTINGTON (Health Education Council), SALLY GREENGROSS (International Federation on Ageing), KEITH THOMPSON, World Health Organization, Working Office for Europe, 8 Selwyn Drive, DK-2000 Copenhagen, Denmark, August 6.

'Alternative medicine' under scrutiny

From the Headmaster of Giggleswick School

Sir, Your leader today (August 10) and the recent articles to which it refers are timely. As a biologist by training, a headmaster by profession and a homeopath by satisfied experience, there are two features of contemporary medical practice in this country today which disturb me.

First, is the arrogant reluctance of the medical profession as a whole to admit to the possibility of any value in healing methods for which there is present no satisfactory scientific explanation for their efficacy. This leads to the failure to use, let alone introduce, trained doctors to, remedial methods which are well tried in practice and which often succeed where orthodox medicine has no effective cure or satisfactory ameliorative procedure.

The leading article admitted that the medical world has enormous scientific achievements to its credit, but correctly pointed out that it was not yet possible to treat effectively all diseases. At this point the merits of so-called holistic forms of therapy were promoted and it was suggested that the medical profession repudiate such therapy for dogmatic reasons.

Throughout the article the perfectly sound reasons for so-called repudiation are never mentioned. It is not right that the claims for any therapy should be subjected to scientific analysis even though, at present, we do not understand the rationale for the treatment in scientific terms? It is admitted that few controlled experiments have been held.

Your leading article does not mention the encouragement you will give to the many unscrupulous purveyors of medicines and treatment who are out to make a lot of money from those in ill-health. Perhaps even more insidious than those who are downright swindlers are those who promote "cures" that can "at least do no harm and may do some good".

Experienced physicians do not doubt the impact of the personal outlook of the patient in the progress of disease and admit that there are aspects of the concept of "mind over matter" that are at present beyond our understanding. It is right, therefore, to open these aspects of medicine to general discussion. But to promote uncritically the concept of "alternative medicine" shows that you fail to understand the multidisciplinary approach to medical education which is not rigidly controlled by the medical establishment either here or in China.

Your message, if taken seriously, will merely encourage "quack" medicine, which will increase the misery of patients by raising false hopes and will channel scarce resources from research which, although not totally successful as yet, has an impressive track record in the conquest of disease.

Yours etc, PETER CAMPBELL, Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, The Middlesex Hospital, Medical School, Mortimer Street, W1, August 11.

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First, is the arrogant reluctance of the medical profession as a whole to admit to the possibility of any value in healing methods for which there is present no satisfactory scientific explanation for their efficacy. This leads to the failure to use, let alone introduce, trained doctors to, remedial methods which are well tried in practice and which often succeed where orthodox medicine has no effective cure or satisfactory ameliorative procedure.

The ill person is, thus, denied available treatment or is frequently subjected to drugs or unnecessary surgery which may have undesirable side effects.

Second, there has been a growing and alarming practice of admitting people to medical training by selection which relies almost exclusively on the basis of ability in academic scientific knowledge as shown in A-level examinations or their equivalent.

Further, many admissions officers are quite happy to admit that they prefer a combination of mathematics, physics and chemistry to combinations which include biology or one of the Humanities subjects. This seems to emphasize a deplorable disregard for the importance of the personality of the potential doctor and his or her interest in living processes and human beings. The fear is that our medical profession shows signs of becoming more and more a profession of glorified mechanics, each with his own narrow speciality, treating parts of bodies rather than whole persons.

Future of barn

From Mr Norman Howard

Sir, Your article on the future of the listed barn at Brockley Hill Farm (feature, July 29) amusing as it was, may have misled readers on some important points. Although timber-framed barns make better travellers than most kinds of historic buildings the Greater London Council does not encourage them to leave home, particularly where this would mean breaking up a family of agricultural buildings which have become attached to their old familiar surroundings and value their close relationship with one another.

In this case, however, the barn suffered very badly in a gale in the late 1970s when there was a partial collapse. It was part of a smallholding, inaccessible to the public, and along this route he had it on a fall repairing lease found it far beyond his means to reconstruct the barn with the expert care which the work required. London Transport, as the owners of the land, were similarly unable to spend heavily on a barn which served no operational purpose.

The future of the barn was

considered by the council's Historic Buildings Panel in August last year. It was agreed that if the cost of reconstruction was to come from the council funds this could only be justified by resiting the barn on a council-owned farm, where it would be widely enjoyed by schoolchildren and others. It is intended that it should form a home for an important collection of farm implements which the council wishes to put on public display.

The council is well aware of the philosophy of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, first advanced by William Morris as its founder. Its manifesto is opposed to unnecessary travel for ancient structures and my panel takes the same view: but this is a case where the SPAB, the Ancient Monuments Society, and the council all considered the journey to be necessary for the future health of the barn. As you rightly say, the Secretary of State for the Environment has already issued the necessary ticket.

Yours sincerely, N. HOWARD, Members' Lobby, The County Hall, SE1, August 3.

Transport in London

From Mr James Booth

Sir, Mr Taylor (August 4) says that "Presumably the new traffic commitments will be given the task of encouraging alternative private forms of transport".

Having just returned from a stay in Mexico, may I suggest as one of these alternatives a group or collective taxi system, which operates in the two largest and traffic-congested cities - Mexico City and Guadalajara. These taxis run in competition with individual taxis, the bus network and a developing underground train system.

Minibuses would have a set route, hold eight to 10 passengers, pick up and drop people where they wanted, along this route and thus provide the convenience and cost to fill the gap in the service provided by our present forms of overground transport.

Yours faithfully, JAMES BOOTH, Old Bulkeley Coach House, Englefield Green, Egham, Surrey.

Nameless JPs

From Mrs Marjorie Jones

Sir, True, jurors are named in open court, as Mr Embrey writes (August 4), but not normally in newspapers and it was on the subject of newspaper publication of the names of JPs that this correspondence started.

Time was when court reports in local papers regularly included the names of the JPs, who were usually well known to the reporters. Nowadays the names will be wanted for publication only when they appear to be part of a news story - about some unusual decision in granting bail, or sentencing for instance. But newspaper editors have discovered that it can be difficult retrospectively to acquire information about the identity of justices. It appears to be nobody's duty to supply it on demand.

Yours faithfully, MARJORIE JONES, 7 Southview Drive, Walton on the Naze, Essex.

A tiger's leap

From Brigadier W. M. T. Magan

Sir, I can confirm from my own experience the statement of the Hon J. W. Best, quoted by his son, Judge G. B. Best, in his letter to the Times of August 5, that a tiger can jump 17ft.

Luis Buñuel

From Father D. C. Barrett, SJ

Sir, It is a pity that, when you decided to identify your correspondents, you did not include the writers of your obituaries. I am curious to know who was the author of the obituary in today's Times (August 1) on the film director, Luis Buñuel, which contained the statement: "His early education by the Jesuits at Saragossa goes a long way towards explaining his fierce anti-clericalism".

This is like saying that George Orwell's early education at Eton goes a long way towards explaining his particular brand of social conscience. In itself it goes no way at all, though, given other factors, it may have been one of the factors in its time Eton has produced famous socialists and the Jesuits have produced famous anti-clericals, among them Voltaire and James Joyce. But the Jesuits are not in the business of producing anti-clericals any more than Eton is in the business of producing socialists. If the contrary were the case, then these two institutions have failed rather badly.

Should you see your way to publishing my letter, may I implore you to restrain your advanced wonderful technical machine from turning Buñuel into Brunel, as it almost did in the obituary ("Brunel"). Buñuel was another kind of engineer, and, to my mind, equally great in his own way.

Yours faithfully, D. C. BARRETT, University of Warwick, Department of Philosophy, Coventry.

A Thames pageant

From Mr John Offen

Sir, Whenever discussion centres on the pleasures of London it is universally agreed that we have never made the best use of the Thames and indeed have architecturally turned our backs on it.

Would it not be an interesting idea to reproduce the superb liverly barges and a royal barge to form some kind of river pageant? It would be of great interest to overseas visitors and make Londoners more aware of this sadly neglected asset.

Yours faithfully, JOHN OFFEN, De Vere Cottages, Kensington, W8, August 8.

Intimations of mortality

From the Reverend Canon R. Robson

Sir, Being one of the last survivors of the old church pensions scheme whereby one third of my income was deducted to provide a pension for my predecessor, may I tell the true story of a ninety-year-old clerical pensioner who wrote to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for his customary annual application form in order to apply for his pension. They sent him twenty forms!

Yours faithfully, R. ROBSON, 2 Oakburn Court, Sheffield, August 1.

Scottish salmon stocks

From Mr E. J. Lipscombe

Sir, The decline of salmon fishing in Scotland and the fears expressed by Sir Andrew Gilchrist (July 25) and others for its future, have been confirmed this spring when good water levels, following two dry seasons, have failed to produce any improvement.

Those of us who have travelled north for many years to fish the spring run on the Spey or wherever, to the considerable benefit of hoteliers, shopkeepers and their employees as well as owners of fishings, are reluctantly having to admit that it would be foolish to continue expending our substance for the privilege of fishing over virtually non-existent salmon runs, whilst legal and illegal netting is allowed seemingly unhindered to annihilate whole runs of the comparatively few spring fish remaining.

May we hope that the new Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will soon recognise the need for quick and decisive action to combat the depredations of the commercial

Not cricket

From Mrs W. T. S. Digby-Seymour

Sir, The St Louis Cardinals (report, August 8) are not ecclesiastical but ornithological. There is, in the United States, an indigenous bird, a little bigger than a black bird, called the cardinal. He is bright red and his mate is olive green with red trimming.

When my mother-in-law went to America for the first time she was interested to hear my brother say that there was a cardinal in the garden with his wife.

Yours faithfully, ROSALIE DIGBY-SEYMOUR, 8 Ennismore Gardens, SW7.

THE ARTS

Cinema

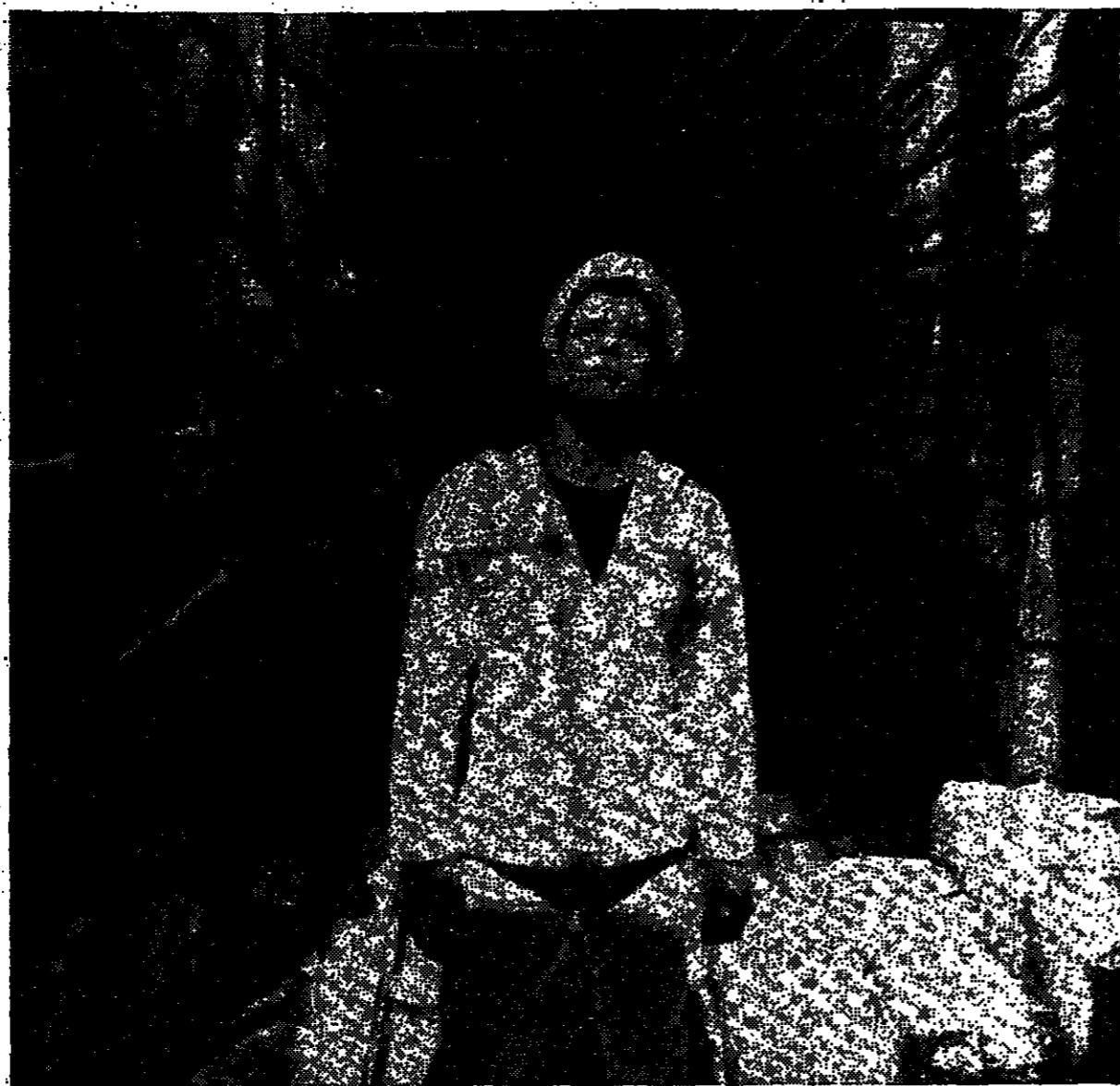
Potency of Fassbinder's hot-house imagination

Querelle (18) Screen on the Hill: Edinburgh Film House

Heaven's Gate National Film Theatre

Heartland Reggae (15) Screen on the Green

The most melancholy moment in Fassbinder's Querelle occurs at the very end: a written note about Jean Genet, author of the source novel Querelle de Brest, informs us that the date of his death "seems to be near".



Brad Davis, all at sea surrounded by murder and deceit in Querelle

camera wanders and the colour filters suddenly catch sight of familiar performers, all at sea: Brad Davis, the unfortunate hero of Midnight Express; Franco Nero; Jeanne Moreau, occasionally, and foolishly, bursting into song. Happier films, no doubt, await each and every one, for Fassbinder, alas, they were all in the past.

received in 1980, Heaven's Gate might well have become Michael Cimino's last film, too. American critics massed like buzzards to gnaw at Hollywood's latest golden boy (his previous film, The Deer Hunter, won five Oscars).

and quietly departed shortly afterwards. Luckily there is more to the story: as the resurrection of Napoleon proves, the length and lifespan of films are not necessarily determined by their original merchants, but by the complete Heaven's Gate can now be witnessed at the National Film Theatre (tomorrow until Tuesday, two performances daily).

immigrants clashing in late nineteenth-century Wyoming is still presented in gorgeous visual chunks, linked with token squirts of narrative glue. John Hurt's wretched intellectual still appears intermittently with the grating effect of a stone in a shoe.

Cimino flaunts his visual treasure-chest with childlike delight. Observe the way he shows off his extraordinary set of Casper town: Vilmos Zsigmond's camera begins in the railway stationmaster's office, dashes on to the platform where a hulking train usefully steams in, then crosses the tracks to the towering buildings and milling crowds beyond; the set, moreover, is scarcely seen again.

But Heaven's Gate is not only a delirious spectacle mounted with anachronistic luxury; there are ideas and characters for consideration. Considering their fragile dialogue, most of the performers work wonders. Kris Kristofferson's nonchalant charisma serves him admirably as the conscientious marshal striving to avoid conflict; Sam Waterston's cattle baron stalks effectively in satanic black; Isabelle Huppert, source of a triangular romance, is touchingly natural.

Back to mundane fare: Heartland Reggae is an artless compilation of concert footage shot in Jamaica during 1977 and 1978, narrated by a chucking voice who wisely remains anonymous. For students and fans of reggae, the film usefully gathers the movement's great names (including Bob Marley and Jacob Miller) and points a finger at the social context.

The extra footage, it must be said, does not substantially change the film's nature, virtues or vices. The epic account of land barons and



Intensity and guts: Ron Cook, Carolyn Pickles

Theatre

The Dillens Other Place

Emerging at the end of Ron Hutchinson's play (and after a three-and-a-half-hour ramble round the fringes of Stratford) with time to do little more than a bare report, I can at least record a job well done and plead with the RSC to revive it next year. It is a golden opportunity for them to capture the all-too-elusive local audience.

George Hewins was born in the workhouse, and on the wrong side of the blanket, within a few weeks of the 1879 opening of the first Memorial Theatre. He lived to be 98 in spite of being a little runty lad (runt is what dillenn means, though it can be simply a term of affection) and getting horribly wounded at the Front.

He was as plucky as a terrier, as cunning as a rat and as randy as a sparrow. He had a sharp eye, an inexhaustible memory and a wonderful way with language. An unfortunate, before he died, his grandson, wife Angela (quietly present with us in the audience) came to him with a tape recorder.

As soon as little George is old enough to walk, Barry Kyle's production is out of the Other Place, down past Holy Trinity Church to Lucy's Mill. We watch the cast, which includes more than a hundred local recruits, many of them children, picking strawberries in a field beneath the bridge, pitching a cheating pea-dealer into the Avon, drilled off to war.

Along the disused railway track we follow the show, moving a few yards further to stop for every brief scene as George (Ron Cook) starts work as a brickie on five shillings for a 56-hour week and meets his match, in more than one sense, in the tall and strapping Emma

(Carolyn Pickles). Eight children and some desperately hard times later, he gets to the point of being his own gaffer and laying bricks at a pound a thousand just as 1914 dawns. Our journey back is a torchlight procession behind a horse-drawn bus, Red-Cross requisitioned. A pause at the War Memorial for the Last Post and a roll call of Stratford's dead; and a brief epilogue back in the Other Place which ends as the book does with the hero's return on crutches to unemployment, housebound boredom, a pious but unhelpful welcome by the Establishment and the struggle to feed the family beginning afresh.

Simply as a feat of organization the production is an unimaginable achievement, but Barry Kyle also finds a few scenes for a director to get his teeth into. The war scene in particular is marvellous; crammed into a tent in a bare field on the far side of town, not all of us saw all of it, but the shells exploding in the scrub behind the grim-faced George, a dim glimpse of stretcher-bearers and snipers in the distance and John Leonard's sound effects were all we needed.

Ron Cook, who a few minutes earlier had been having the time of his life in a music hall knees-up, and had got 'through 15 years of ever more children and poverty in a few minutes, rose superbly to that scene. For his intensity and guts as much as his size, he is perfect casting. So is Peggy Mount as his great-aunt, guardian Cal, indomitably dispensing wisdom: "Never be afraid of the dead, my lad. They can't hurt you. It's the living as does that!"

It leaves you wishing that every theatre festival in a country town could come up with a celebration that shows the hardest side of local history with such grit and humour. But most other George Hewinses took the story with them to their graves. Stratford owes him thanks and is paying the debt.

Anthony Masters

Promenade Concert Cultivated Mozart

BBCSO/Leitner Albert Hall/Radio 3

Now in his seventies, the Berlin-born conductor Ferdinand Leitner made his Prom debut on Wednesday in a programme which was obviously, and often quite delightfully, right up his street.

His Mozart, as we heard in the first half, is cultivated, cultivated and affectionate, the benevolent, assertiveness and aphoristic grace of the opening movement of his Symphony No 36, the "Linz", gave the lie to Wagner's sneer about the rattle of dinner plates at a banquet. Modulations of harmony and metre were made urbanely, never didactically apparent, with even the Presto unfolding with a gentle inevitability of intent.

His last year as artistic director of South Bank Summer Music, Simon Rattle will be presenting in the opening concert on Sunday the first public performance in Britain of Osud, or Fate, the little-known opera Janáček wrote immediately after Jenufa.

The work was never performed in Janáček's lifetime; it had to wait for its premiere on Brno Radio until 1934; and it was first staged, and then only in a much rearranged version, in Brno and Stuttgart in 1958. František Jilka, who conducted the Brno performance, recorded the work in 1975-76 with the Brno Janáček Opera in an entirely illuminating and untempered version (Supraphon 1 12 2011/2); but its only authentic staged performance was in the 1978 production by the opera company of Česká Budějovice, and only then was the vocal score published.

Osud to a large extent brought its own fate upon itself. Not only does the awkward timescale of the piece, with its final act's opera within an opera, make its dramatic intention obscure, but the entire subject matter was too close for comfort. The story, a true one, about the destructive triangular relationship between a young girl, her vengeful composer-lover and her mad mother, found resonances within Janáček's own life which brought him too near the libretto to see its confusion and inconsistencies. So is a concert performance premiere in Czech not putting an immense strain on both the audience and the work itself?

And then Sibelius. The symphony cycle which will span August 18, 21 and 28 is something that has obsessed Rattle ever since his very first concert with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. "The orchestra now has a feeling of possession about the music - I really do think they know it better than any other orchestra, except possibly in Finland. Of course, we've had the opportunity to rehearse and play in Birmingham in a way that's just not possible in London." Birmingham and its orchestra remain Rattle's first love. "When they're playing at their best, I wouldn't be anywhere else in the world." Next year they will record Mahler's Das klagende Lied and the Schoenberg orchestration of the Brahms G minor Piano Quartet, one of Rattle's own favourite works, which the London Sinfonietta will be performing on August 27.

At the moment Rattle is cutting down on guest conducting - "perhaps just once a year there'll be a visit to Cleveland to teach me a bit more about conducting" - and turning more to opera, with plans ahead for the English National Opera and for a Mahagonny in Scotland. "And I want a lot more free time - to have a family and learn things better. Overwork dogs all of us now and interpretations are showing it. A lot of a conductor's life should be follow - and that's impossible on a jet-propelled career."

Television Academics caught in the moonlight

Last night's edition of Campers (BBC1) may have been a confused and scrappy affair, but both in what it said and in what it did not bother to say it was a fascinating sign of the times.

We were introduced to two professors at Edinburgh, John Erickson of defence studies and Jeff Collins of micro-electronics, both firmly ensconced in that military-industrial complex identified and exorcised by E. P. Thompson and his acolytes in the heady post-68 revolutionary days. From the relaxed manner,

however, in which questions about the sale - or at least use - of their expertise were deflected, it was clear that a decade's furious campaigning by Time Out and the New Statesman had gone for naught and that a notorious Penguin Warwick University Limited might as well have gone unpublished.

Collins went so far as to say that, in view of the disparity between academic and industrial salaries, it was incumbent on dons to put in some substantial moonlighting, say

60 days a year. Slightly haggard and owlish (or was it the camerawork?), he was confident that his "interfacing with industry" could only benefit his students. The impression given by the film (all it gave were impressions) was indeed of a cheerful and purposeful departmental community.

Erickson's haggard looks seemed more than adequately explained by the life he leads - maintaining his dominance as a world authority on Soviet strategy, making speeches to US naval top brass in Con-

Sir Peter Hall to be Glyndebourne artistic director

Glyndebourne began in May 1934 with two Mozart operas, Le nozze di Figaro and Così fan tutte. Both works will be in the fiftieth birthday season next summer, in revivals of Sir Peter Hall's productions.

Sir Peter, whose appointment as Glyndebourne's new artistic director has just been announced, is also responsible for the first new production of the season, Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea, which will be conducted by Raymond

Leppard and designed by John Bury. This is exactly the team staging the opera which marked Hall's first association with Glyndebourne, Cavalli's La calisto. The other new production of the season will be the first performance at Glyndebourne of Richard Strauss's Arabella, which will be conducted by Bernard Haitink. John Cox is the director and Julia Trevelyan Oman, in her Glyndebourne debut, the designer. Richard Van Allan (Leporello), Maria Ewing (Elvira) and Carol Vaness (Anna).

The Stary Theatre of Cracow, following its appearance in the Edinburgh Festival, presents its Nastasia Filipovna at River-side Studios from September 6 to 11. The show, based upon the final chapters of Dostoevsky's The Idiot, is directed by Andrzej Wajda, and stars Jerzy Radziwiłowicz, best known in Britain for his performance in Wajda's film Man of Marble.

Hilary Finch introduces South Bank Summer Music, which begins on Sunday with Janáček's little-known opera Osud

A world unlike any other



Rattle (left) and Janáček: "It's a must"

"For a start, the audience will have a synopsis and translation," says Simon Rattle. "But the music is great enough to carry it; the story doesn't actually need to add up to a perfect Germanic equation. Anyway, it's no sillier than Trovatore and we've got used to that. What's so important is that the depth psychology connections in Janáček came from this piece, connections he was to develop a great deal later.

that we're into a world unlike any other. Already the orchestration has changed completely from the Dvorak-like, heavily scored Jenufa. Suddenly the clarity of the Vixen is there - and so are the extraordinary difficulties. This is the first piece in which Janáček's style sprang forward: the use of fourths, the speech rhythms - they all belong to the late Janáček, and not in experimental form, but fully grown.

Rattle grew to love Janáček when he was a child in Liverpool, a city which, under the tutelage of Sir Charles Mackerras and Sir Charles Groves, was an early pioneer of his music. Excerpts from The Cunning Little Vixen will be performed on August 20. "Having lived so long with the work, playing it at the Royal Academy, doing 20 performances at Glyndebourne, and

six years, but that this was the start of it all, I'm hoping that Welsh and Scottish operas will come and take it up. In a country where Janáček is so well loved it's a must."

On tour, I was desperate to hear the Sinfonietta play it. I've rarely had such withdrawal symptoms from a piece."

Advertisement for 'Runners' featuring a cast including Jane Asher and James Fox. Includes contact information for GATE THEATRE.

Advertisement for 'Magnificent Fanny and Alexander' by Ingmar Bergman, featuring a cast including Fanny Ardant and Alexander Koberger. Includes contact information for Camden Plaza.

Advertisement for 'The Alan Parsons Project' featuring Andrew Powell and the Philharmonia Orchestra. Includes contact information for EMI.

Advertisement for 'Glenda Jackson Great and Small' featuring Glenda Jackson at the Vaudeville Theatre. Includes contact information for the theatre.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues of various stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

MARKET REPORT

Profit-taking stifles rally

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Aug 1. Dealings end, Today, Contango Day, Aug 15. Settlement Day, Aug 22.

Share prices hovered briefly near the record high of 731.4 set in June before profit-taking in blue chips clipped the early gains to leave the FT 30-share index only 0.5 better at 725.9. It had been as high as 729.1.

A surge of news from important companies created scattered interest on a generally lack-lustre day. Trading has been subdued recently by fears that another big rise in United States interest rates would put even more pressure on Britain.

Government securities started the day with losses of 1/8, but these were erased, and by the close, a slight rally was seen. Despite the apparent anomaly of inflation at 4.5 per cent and interest rates at 10 per cent the gilt sector still becomes nervous when American interest rates are under pressure.

Speculative trading in secondary oil shares was superseded by excellent second-quarter figures from Shell, whose shares rose 30p to 632p. The news helped BP gain 16p to 444p, while Ultramar also managed a quick rise before profit-takers

moved in and pushed the price back to 699p, down 5p. Other companies reporting included GKN, down 4p at 180p after reading 188p, 71, down 6p at 228p, and Sun Oil, up 60p at 235p, both became speculative favourites.

News that Mr Jeffrey Sterling has become chairman at P&O, as was widely expected, helped the old town and city recently remained strong. Guarantees but still trading under the old name - shares to maintain their 44p peak. That was good news for the directors, who own 10 million shares between them. P&O's deferred shares slipped 3p to 202p.

BET - where Sterling Guarantee holds 4 per cent of the equity - climbed 12p to 277p helped by an optimistic chairman's statement. Tinsgate firm's statement, before earnings, after the chairman, Mr John Clement, predicted that 1983-84 would be a year of growth.

The insurance sector came in for renewed activity following The Department of Trade and Industry is writing to stockbrokers A. J. Bekhor, asking why the 100 member firms have yet to file annual returns to Companies House. New companies such as the enlarged Bekhor are allowed 18 months grace, which expired last March.

The recent figures from Commercial Union and Guardian. Among life shares, Praxair climbed 10p to 396p and Equity Law 7p to 715p, both on expectations of better profits.

Newcomer Polytechnic Marine firm's another 18p to 244p, well over the issue price of 111p and the debut premium of 180p. Peel Holdings, another newcomer, did not fare as well, slipping back to its issue price of 210p. Among speculative issues, Kraft Productions was suspended at 165p. The shares started the week at 115p when bid speculation arose in a thin market. H. P. Bulmer also came in for support on bid hopes.

Obviously Mr Alexander Gourvitch, the chairman at Phoenix Timber, believes the narrowness in the group's fortunes is to last. He has bought 18,000 shares in the company. Two days ago he reported that the two-year decline in profits is over and that trading is now profitable.

Wednesday's announcement that Mr Malcolm Horsman is to buy Pennine Resources - he has

already acquired Candeco's 30.8 per cent stake - was followed by news that a director, Mr D. Musgrove, had sold his 15,000 shares. Pennine, although suspended on the Luxembourg stock exchange, is still being dealt in London under Rule 163 (3) and the shares climbed 11p to 37p.

Prince of Wales Hotels attracted bid speculation on the news that a stake had been taken in the company by an unknown group - the shares climbed 7p to 123p. Pleasance held at 313p after the recent 23p jump. A steady buyer seems to be building up a stake.

A quick flurry of excitement followed an 8p jump in the shares of an insurance broker, C. E. Heath, before jobbers admitted to a slight stock shortage in the sector.

AGB Research rose 15p to 272p on the 20 per cent increase in profits, but East Lancashire Paper fell 3p to 56p on its 20 per cent fall in profits.

Ward & Goldstone slipped 2p to 73p on news that Mr Michael Goldstone, the managing director, had left the company after policy disagreements.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of British funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

MEDIAN

Table of median funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

LONGS

Table of long-term funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN

Table of commonwealth and foreign funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Table of local authority funds with columns for fund name, price, and change.

DOLLAR STOCKS

Table of dollar stocks with columns for stock name, price, and change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS

Table of banks and discounts with columns for bank name, price, and change.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS

Table of brewers and distillers with columns for company name, price, and change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL

Table of commercial and industrial stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

A - B

Table of stocks starting with A and B with columns for company name, price, and change.

Table of high low company stocks with columns for company name, price, and change.

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SHIPPING

Table of shipping companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

MINES

Table of mining companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

OIL

Table of oil companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

PROPERTY

Table of property companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

RUBBER

Table of rubber companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

TEA

Table of tea companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table of miscellaneous companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Table of sterling spot and forward rates with columns for currency, rate, and date.

Money Market Rates

Table of money market rates with columns for instrument, rate, and date.

Other Markets

Table of other market rates with columns for instrument, rate, and date.

Dollar Spot Rates

Table of dollar spot rates with columns for instrument, rate, and date.

Euro-4 Deposits

Table of Euro-4 deposits with columns for instrument, rate, and date.

Gold

Table of gold prices with columns for instrument, price, and date.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for trust name, price, and change.

INSURANCE

Table of insurance companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

PROPERTY

Table of property companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

RUBBER

Table of rubber companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

TEA

Table of tea companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table of miscellaneous companies with columns for company name, price, and change.

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Investment and Finance

City Editor Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES City Office 200 Gray's Inn Road London WC1X 8EZ Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 725.9 up 0.5 FT All Shares 456.53 Bargainers 19.349 Datastream USM Leaders Index 100.27 up 1.28 New York: Dow Jones Average (latest) 1174.59 Tokyo: Stock Exchange Index 57.39 up 2.43 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1040.58 up 10.84 Amsterdam 150.7 up 2.8 Sydney: AO Index 663.3 up 3.2 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 934.80 up 2.6 Brussels: General Index 128.52 up 1.25 Paris: CAC Index 131.2 up 1.0 Zurich: SKA General 293.9 up 0.1

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4800 down 20pts Index 84.9 down 0.1 DM 4.0450 up 0.002 FF 12.1625 up 0.0225 Yen 364.50 unchanged Dollar Index 130.5 up 0.5 DM 2.7325 NEW YORK LATEST Sterling \$1.4785 INTERNATIONAL ECUE 563521 SDREC 702898

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rate 9% Finance houses base rate 10% Discount market loans week fixed 9% 3 month interbank 10-9 1/2 Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 1/2-10% 3 month DM 5 1/2-5 1/2 3 month FF 15 1/2-15 1/2 US rates: Bank prime rate 11.00 Fed funds 9% Treasury long bond 99.5/8-99.3/4 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period 6 July to 2 August, 1983 inclusive: 9.989 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$411.15 pm \$411.75 close \$412.25-413 (E278.75-279) up \$3.25 New York latest: \$411.75 Krugerrand (per coin): \$425-426.50 (E287-287.50) Sovereigns (new): \$97-98 (E65.50-66.25) *Excludes VAT

TODAY

Interim Alliance Trust, Ault and Wilroy, Prestige Group. Finals: Owen and Robinson. Economic statistics: Retail sales index (July). Tax-price index (July). Usable steel production (July). Index of industrial production (June - Provisional).

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Annual Meetings: Memory Computer, Berkeley Court Hotel, Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4 (11.00). Steel production in the public and private sectors rose by 5 per cent last month compared with an average of 237,300 tonnes a week a year ago. In the first seven months of the year the weekly average was 290,500 tonnes, about 3 per cent down on the same period of last year. Plessey has won the contract to install and manage the electronics and communications equipment for the new Falklands airport. This is the first time the Ministry of Defence has let a contract to a commercial company to coordinate the technical work at a military airfield. Plessey results, page 17. Mr Jack Gill is to take over secretary of the Export Credits Guarantee Department when Mr Kenneth Taylor retires next month. He is director of the Department of Industry's Industrial Development Unit and a former secretary of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. A halt was called to dealings in the shares of William Whittingham, the housebuilding and film processing group which is expected today to announce agreed bid terms with one of two companies with which it has been talking. Tarmac is tipped by the stock market as the company concerned. Worker-shareholders in the National Freight Consortium, the company sold by the state to its workers last year, are to get their third interim dividend this year.

Car production lifts GKN: domestic appliances help TI

Profit increases by big engineering groups boost recovery hopes

By Our Financial Staff Two of Britain's main engineering companies provided evidence yesterday that they were beginning to recover from recession. Guest Keen & Nettlefolds, the largest engineering company in the country, reported that increased car production was boosting demand for components, helping the group to last month's pretax profits of £3.1m, compared with £3.5m for the same period last year. And engineers TI Group showed, in a report of mixed news, that strong consumer demand for domestic appliances helped to produce half-time pretax profits of £6.2m, compared with £3.9m a year earlier and £600,000 in the second half of 1982. At GKN, Sir Trevor Hol-

continuing to trade at this improved level. After the severe downturn in business activity in the second half of 1982, GKN's British activities benefited from a gradual improvement in the economy and from the group's restructuring. In particular, the automotive-components companies benefited from higher British and American car production and improved productivity. But demand from commercial and agricultural vehicle companies remained low. GKN's formal offer for AE will be sent to shareholders within the next week. Both sides appear confident that the £27m takeover bid will go through despite efforts by brokers Laurence Prust, urging shareholders to reject it.

TI Group Half-year to 30.6.83 Pretax profit £6.2m (£3.9m) Stated earnings 5.5p (3.2p) Turnover £442.2m (£413.8m) Net interim dividend 2.5p (2.5p) Share price 160p Yield 6.7%

interim dividend is being maintained at 2.5p. It points out that the first half profit improvement is greater than the figures suggest since these take into account the charging of £700,000 redundancy costs, hitherto treated as extraordinary items. Trading profits on this basis were unchanged from a year earlier at £14.1m, but interest charges fell to £8.1m against £10.4m in the first half of 1982. The consumer boom sent group sales of domestic appliances up 50 per cent. The mixed bag of specialized engineering businesses will benefit in the second half from the recent brightening in machine tool demand. The big problem remains with steel tubes. Investors' Notebook, page 14

British bank delay on Argentine loan

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent British banks will not go ahead with today's planned signing of the long-delayed \$1,500m (£1,014.5m) loan for Argentina but other banks are being encouraged to go ahead and sign the agreement. It is hoped that British banks will add their signatures later. One of the main problems behind the delay has been continuing Argentine restrictions on British companies remitting dividends from Argentina. The British Government is now seeking to check that companies have been able to take money out of the country before giving British banks a signal that it is happy for them to go ahead with their part of the loan. The Bank of England is understood to be monitoring progress of a number of large British companies, including Rio-Tinto, Anglo and Shell, in trying to take dividends out of Argentina. However, it was unclear last night how much progress had been made. British banks including the four big clearers are due to provide about \$150m of the \$1.5bn loan which was originally due to have been signed in May but has been delayed by a succession of problems. Yesterday Señor Jorge Wehbe, Argentine Economy Minister, was locked in negotiations with international banks in New York. Señor Wehbe is believed to have told bankers that Argentina had lifted financial sanctions against Britain and was also prepared to waive a sovereign immunity clause in the loan documentation and amend domestic bankruptcy laws as demanded by international banks. However, the issue of British bank participation is still confused. The big clearing banks in effect extracted a public signal of approval from the Government before agreeing to participate in the Argentine loan because it was such a sensitive issue in the United Kingdom and had received a lot of bad publicity. They are now likely to be reluctant to go ahead with a signing unless the British Government once again indicates it is happy for them to do so. There is still some confusion over the extent to which bureaucratic delays rather than political decisions have prevented British companies taking money out of Argentina.

Saudis raise production targets

By David Young Energy Correspondent The prospects of stable oil prices throughout the coming winter and possibly until mid-1985 has emerged after the adoption of new price and production targets by Saudi Arabia. Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, has headed off price increases demanded by other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries by proposing and winning approval for an increase in the present production ceiling of 17.5 million barrels a day at an emergency meeting of Opec ministers at Taif, Saudi Arabia. Several Opec members had hoped that the Western world's pre-winter stocking would lead to prices rising above the present \$29-a-barrel benchmark. Faced with domestic balance of payments problems, several members of the Opec ministerial committee had hoped to force an overall increase in current Rotterdam spot-market prices of around \$31.30 a barrel. However, Shaikh Yamani presented price rise discussions by announcing that Saudi Arabia would step up its oil production above the 5 million barrels a day level agreed at the March Opec meeting. Saudi output acts as an Opec "swing producer" and can quickly be used to regulate market demand.

Oils jump as Shell income tops £1.3bn

By Our Energy Correspondent Shell, the world's second largest oil company, has reported higher-than-expected half-year profits. Net income in the second quarter, at £621m, was £100m up on stock market expectations. The Shell profit and improved prospects of oil price stability led to oil shares rising on the London Stock Exchange. Shell's sales for the half-year were £25.9bn, up from £23.1bn in the previous half-year. Improved efficiency meant that net income on a replacement cost basis rose to £1.33bn compared with £953m, with increasing North Sea production playing an important role in the profit improvement. The weakness of sterling also helped Shell in the United States where profits rose by 19 per cent compared with 19

Pound slips against dollar

Funds flowed into the dollar again yesterday pushing it above DM 2.74, although profit taking trimmed part of its gains. Sterling also came in for a bout of weakness against the dollar as selling pressure developed pushing the pound as low as \$1.4750. However, it recovered to close only 20 points down against the dollar at \$1.4800 and continued firm against Continental currencies with its trade-weighted value rising by 0.1 to 84.9. The dollar closed at DM 2.7325 for a rise of 80 points. The dollar was helped by the decision of the German central bank not to raise domestic interest rates and speculation on today's US money supply

Spring Grove takeover

By Wayne Listott Spring Grove, the troubled clothing group which said last week that it was in takeover talks, has reached agreement with Sunlight Service Group. Sunlight will pay an estimated £16m for the laundry group which has seen profits drop sharply. Spring Grove has said that any bid would fall short of yesterday's 54p share price. Last month Spring Grove reported interim profits to last March down from £1.28m to £39,000. Analysts say borrowings are 107 per cent of shareholders' funds. Spring Grove's profits peaked in 1980 at £3.8m. Last year they dropped by £1m to £2.5m. Spring Grove paid £7.5m for St George's Group, the laundry

Yamani: heading off price rise

Several Opec members had hoped that the Western world's pre-winter stocking would lead to prices rising above the present \$29-a-barrel benchmark. Faced with domestic balance of payments problems, several members of the Opec ministerial committee had hoped to force an overall increase in current Rotterdam spot-market prices of around \$31.30 a barrel. However, Shaikh Yamani presented price rise discussions by announcing that Saudi Arabia would step up its oil production above the 5 million barrels a day level agreed at the March Opec meeting. Saudi output acts as an Opec "swing producer" and can quickly be used to regulate market demand.

Shares slip in active trading

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks turned mixed yesterday after giving up their broad early gains in active trading. The Dow Jones Industrial average was off two points after rising four points in early trading. International Business Machines was off 1/4 at 117 1/2. American Telephone & Telegraph off 1/4 at 65 1/2. General Motors off 1/4 at 68 1/2. Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing off 1/4 at 76 1/2. Texas Instruments up 1/4 at 107 1/2. NCR up 1/4 at 119 1/2. Dupont up 1/4 at 46 1/2. AMR Corp up 1/4 at 31 1/2. Sears Roebuck up 1/4 at 39 1/2. Eastman Kodak up 1/4 at 68 1/2.

P&O confirms Sterling

By Our Finance Staff Mr Jeffrey Sterling was yesterday confirmed as chairman of the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company. He replaces Lord Inchcape on November 1, but will start tackling P & O's defence against the £300m takeover bid from Trafalgar House immediately. Trafalgar is headed by an old adversary, Mr Nigel Brookes. He and Mr Sterling have known each other for years, both emerging into the spotlight from property deals in the early 1970s. Mr Sterling's own company was caught in the mid-seventies property crash of Town and City which he effectively rescued and has only now pulled back to a point where the self-

Offer-for-sale may come in September Early BP shares sell-off likely

By Jonathan Davis The recent surge in the value of oil shares has increased the likelihood that the Government will launch its £500m sale of British Petroleum shares at the earliest possible moment. Some brokers and investment institutions now believe the sale will take place as early as next month, although this would mean completing the issue before the recall of Parliament in the last week of October, a move which may provoke protests from Opposition MPs. BP's shares have risen by more than 10 per cent from 390p to 440p in under three weeks, since Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, announced on July 25 that the share sale was pending. A week earlier the Government abandoned at the last minute plans to place a large chunk of BP shares with City institutions at a price believed to be in the region of 375p. The recent strong advance in oil shares, reinforced again yesterday by Shell's better than expected results, means that the Government is now poised to obtain a better price with its planned offer for sale than it would have done with its placing. The timing and pricing of large share issues are complex and sensitive political decisions, as last year's Britoil and Amersham International privatization offers demonstrated. The decision on BP will be taken by the Chancellor in consultation with his merchant bank advisers, the Government Broker and the Bank of England. So many factors have to be

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS Excellent performance continues Sales up 33% Pre-tax profit up 21% Earnings per share up 19% Orders at record £1.4 billion. An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated results. 13 weeks ended 1 July 1983 £m 13 weeks ended 2 July 1982 £m Sales 287.2 215.3 Operating profit 31.2 24.9 Profit before taxation 38.2 31.5 Earnings per share 2.96p 2.46p PLESSEY The Plessey Company plc, Vicarage Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 4AQ.

City Editor's Comment

Excusing 'spender of last resort'

As the dollar continues to scale new heights against the Deutschmark and the franc, it is hardly surprising that apologists are surfacing in greater numbers to justify this apparently absurd state of affairs. Even before the Williamsburg summit, Mr Martin Feldstein, chairman of President Reagan's council of economic advisers, praised the inflow of capital into the US from a purely insular point of view. Using other countries' money helped to fuel US growth at lower interest rates or with less inflationary money growth than the budget deficit would otherwise entail. This was not music to the ears of Europeans who pointed out that they were having to endure higher interest rates in consequence, rates not justified by their own domestic circumstances. Today, the argument is being put more sensitively. For instance, Mr David Hale, chief economist of Chicago's Kemper Financial Services, argues in the Wall Street Journal that the capital inflows into the US, quite apart from being essential to its own recovery, enable the US to act as the world's "spender of last resort". The illogically strong dollar means that the US can grow fast without the normal exchange rate or balance of payments constraint. At a time when Third World countries are constrained from strong growth by the debt crisis, others like France by the need to restore sound finance at home and a third group, most notably the UK, by structural problems, "only the US is capable of leading a world economic upturn by recycling billions of dollars of foreign capital through its financial markets and providing \$60bn - \$100bn of external stimulus per annum through its trade deficit". This is a sort of free market version of the locomotive theory and is open to the same objections that, as evidenced by American second quarter growth, it can set up an unsustainable or inflationary type of world recovery. Other countries can object that America's absorption of funds and high interest rates detract as much from others' growth as US imports add. But such theoretical niceties are really beside the point. The real threat posed by the huge advance of the dollar since 1981 is that it will destabilize world finances. The very fact that America has accidentally adopted the locomotive role is a reminder that capital flows rule the currency roost these days. Capital movements in the major currencies today affect trade patterns more than the other way round - as Britain discovered in 1981. As the apologists concede, the dollar's rise must eventually end if the rest of the world is to take a full part in world recovery and American manufacturers are to avoid intolerable pressure or protectionism. If the dollar then gradually subsided, that might be fine. But that seems a distant hope. As soon as the trend peters out, it will reverse itself and if recent behaviour in the exchanges is anything to go by it will reverse itself with a vengeance. If the dollar fell on the same scale as it has risen, it would disrupt the trade of other countries and could cripple American expansion in the absence of huge cuts in US budget deficits. Yet there is little to stop a dollar collapse once it starts. That is why a recovery built on the need for an illogically high and rising dollar is a recovery built on sand.

Wayne Lintott looks at the challenges facing Keith Wickenden's successor

Charting a new course at European Ferries



Ken Siddle: Shy, reflective chain-smoker thrust into the limelight.

Last year European Ferries bought out the minority interests of its American investment, leaving two Canadians, Messrs John Dick and William Pauls, with a potential 20 per cent holding and large salaries. One is over £200,000 a year and rises by 8 per cent per annum.

They were recently made directors. They were not defensive appointments, Mr Siddle says.

And a look through the offer document of that deal shows why. Both men are contractually bound to offer any share sales to European Ferries or to allow it to find a buyer if the company can not afford to acquire them.

They can sell only one million of their 35 million shares a year for the first few years and their rights are tied both to their own performance and that of the group as a whole.

"We have not lost our sense of direction and soon we will be able to show that it is not the case" says Mr Siddle. "There are some internal moves we are putting together. We have the right developments and we intend adding to them, and that includes acquisitions if a company suitably fits our criteria."

The company is obviously still piqued at the Government's veto on a bid for Sealink. "It is illogical not to let us have it. Particularly in view of its inefficiency and large debts (about £70m)." But Mr Siddle refuses to give up trying.

He dismissed the threat of another price war with Sealink in view of its planned privatization.

European Ferries came out of the last war the accepted victor with an increased market share. There is no doubt he feels it would do so again.

He is actively looking at new ships with increased technology that dramatically cut down on manning. Felixstowe Port has proved a success - it is working flat out - but European Ferries is looking at new plans and investments.

Much of the surrounding acreage is owned by Trinity College, Cambridge. So if Felixstowe won its application to become a free port, would it have the space to take advantage?

"Discussions have taken place to make the necessary land available, and it is available. But something like that is as much dependent on luck as judgment," a phrase Mr Siddle uses often.

He remains optimistic about the property side. British trading is now self financing and the business is looking up in the US thanks to the economic recovery there. But that has not yet manifested in contractual agreements.

The board of directors is now made up from a diverse group. There are two stockbrokers, two Canadian property men, two Norwegian shipping men from an earlier ferry merger, a freight expert, a marine architect and port manager.

"I have no reason to assume they would not back me in a fight," Mr Siddle concludes. "In fact I know they would," he said opening a packet of cigarettes.

APPOINTMENTS

Dual role for Croda director

Croda Polymers International: Mr R. A. Staff has become senior polymers director and director responsible for Croda Ink operations worldwide.

Ultramar: Mr John Du Cane and Mr Ronald Dinger have been appointed non-executive directors. Mr Du Cane is a non-executive director of Amalgam; Mr Dinger is deputy chairman and group managing director of the TI Group.

MY Dart: Mr Charles Bruce has been made group financial director, continuing as company secretary, a post held by S. Pearson and Son. Mr J. H. Hale will take up his appointment as managing director on September 1.

Edmond Holdings: Mr Kenneth Lindsay, former chairman of Crouse, has joined the board as non-executive deputy chairman. He will also be a part-time consultant to advise on expanding the group's house building.

Ransburg UK: Mr Brian Carter, company secretary, has been appointed general manager.

Mr Mike Hughes, above, head of personnel and staff relations of Anglia Television, has been appointed to the new post of general manager.

Mothercare Group: Mrs Rosemary Good becomes marketing director, Mr Bernard Greenaway operations director, or Mrs Sandra Lewis personnel director.

Electricity Consultative Council (North West): Mr R. D. Wilson has been reappointed chairman.

Espley-Manston: Mr Andrew Satterly has been made managing director.

European Ferries, the group that owns Townsend Thoresen ferries, the port of Felixstowe and the Singer & Friedlander bank, has successfully weathered the immediate turbulence that came after the death last month of former Tory MP Mr Keith Wickenden, its flamboyant 50-year-old chairman. But what is the future for a company so closely identified under Mr Wickenden as the entrepreneurial leading edge of the trend to privatization?

The group, at present capitalized at £200m, was immediately faced with two main questions. Would a predator use the period of uncertainty to amount a bid? And in which direction would a new boss take this, by now conglomerate, company?

European Ferries says it has not received "the faintest whisper" of a bid approach from any source. The two favourites, Trefgar House and Sterling Guarantee Trust, are both preoccupied with Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation.

Within three weeks, important policy decisions will be disclosed internally to managers that will show them, at least, the planned future direction of the group.

It would be wrong to mistake the nervousness of Mr Ken Siddle, European Ferries' 47-year-old managing director and Mr Wickenden's successor as chairman, for any form of mental weakness. In his first interview on the business since taking over, Mr Siddle continuously paced his Kent office while chain-smoking.

Mr Siddle's unanimous appointment as chairman by the rest of the board - insiders said that he dealt with talk of introducing an outsider with the curt response "over my dead body" - facilitated a swift transference of power that helped maintain City confidence in the company. He has been managing director for 10 years and has been in day-to-day charge for the last five. He became managing director when Mr Roland Wickenden, Keith's brother, died of heart attack in 1972.

He now runs a company with 7,500 employees and 165,000 shareholders. Unusually for a

public company, the majority, 156,000 are small shareholders who hold just enough shares, 300, to become eligible for concessions on ferry fares.

This is an attractive perk. Some shipping analysts think it effectively adds 30 per cent to the annual dividend and means that once every four years shareholders can transport their car and family across the Channel free.

The company's business is concentrated into four trading areas: ferries, ports, property and banking. Over the last five years turnover has doubled to almost £300m.

Pre-tax profits were on course for a similar rise, but tipped sharply in 1981 as a result of a ferry price war with British Rail's Sealink.

Nevertheless, profits were back up to £30.7m last year and analysts expect £35.5m this year and then a sharp rise to £50m next year.

The share price has not performed as well, however. This year shares hit a low of 50p when, even before Mr Wickenden's untimely death, the company would have been more vulnerable to a takeover attack than at a present speculatively supported level of 74p.

Shortly after Mr Wickenden's death, the shares touched 80p, when more than a million shares changed hands. There was one steady buyer whose identity has not yet reached the share register. That alone sustains bid hopes.

Mr Siddle makes clear his aversion to a takeover which

would be furiously contested by both the management and, he claims, the workforce.

"At any price? Well, I am an employee of the shareholders and the work force and obviously if the price was right it would have to be seriously considered." But what would the right price be?

That question fudged the issue suitably, Mr Siddle thinks that the present share price "grossly" undervalues European Ferries. Its 1982 accounts show assets per share at 80p, but there are a number of assets that the directors have not revealed for years.

Taking the work in progress and theoretical valuations of the

property, ports and ships, a ready reckoner figure looks to be 120p a share.

"I would be sorely disappointed at 120p," says Mr Siddle. He would not give the same answer when the figure was raised to 150p.

"Anyway," he added after a momentary pause, "we're worth a hell of a lot more than the Stock Exchange values us."

The biggest of these moves two years ago left European Ferries with big holdings in Denver and Atlanta.

The deals have not proved as successful as had been hoped and Mr Siddle admits to being very "unhappy" about the profit performance of the Denver holdings last year. He suggests the group will concentrate on British operations in the future.

SIX MONTHS - 1983

Ultramar

POISED FOR GROWTH

Review of Ultramar Group Financial Results and Operations

	First Six Months 1983 £ million	First Six Months 1982 £ million
Summary of financial results		
Turnover	823.9	645.3
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	70.1	85.9
Net profit	47.7	44.0
Cash flow from operations	60.2	70.9
Capital expenditures	174.0	86.8

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement:

"Our producing operations in Indonesia, the North Sea and Western Canada did well in the first half of 1983, but the marketing and refining companies in Eastern Canada and the Western United States were disappointing. The U.K. marketing division was profitable in the first half."

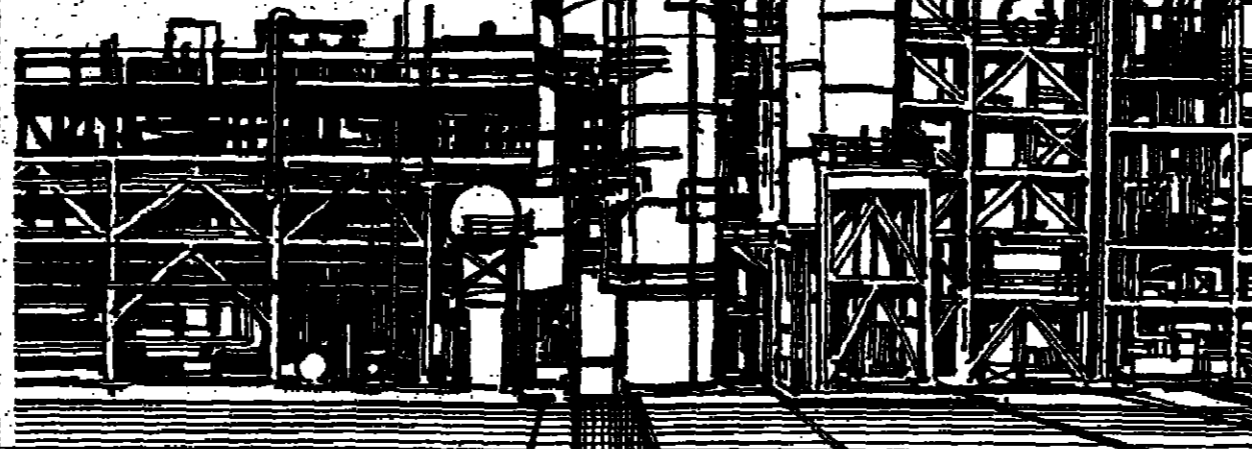
"The profit before taxes and the cash flow were lower than those for the first half of last year; however, the net profit was a little higher."

"We have been stressing for the past two years our capital expenditure programme and are glad to be able to report that the upgrading units for the Quebec Refinery are expected to be on stream by the end of August. The Maureen Field, in which we have a 6 per cent interest, is scheduled to come on stream by the end of the third-quarter of this year. Most important are the two additional units (trains) which will double the capacity of the LNG Plant in Indonesia. One of the trains is already operational and the other will be producing LNG in the fourth quarter. One of the two original trains, which was damaged by an accident in April, is being repaired and is now expected to be operational by November."

"The Board has declared an increased interim dividend amounting to 6p per share (1982 5½p) on the Ordinary Shares. The dividend will be paid on 14th October 1983 to shareholders on the Register on 25th August 1983."

ARNOLD LORBEER
Chairman
11th August 1983

The completed Catalytic Cracker at the Quebec Refinery.



Consolidated Profit and Loss Account	First Six Months 1983 £ million	First Six Months 1982 £ million	Year 1982 £ million
Turnover	823.9	645.3	1,513.3
Cost of Sales	715.0	523.2	1,246.1
Gross profit	108.9	122.1	267.2
Distribution costs and administrative expenses	50.0	40.2	93.4
Other operating income	58.9	81.9	173.8
Interest payable	17.1	16.3	34.4
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	70.1	85.9	185.2
Taxation on profit on ordinary activities	22.5	39.4	79.4
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation	47.6	46.5	105.8
Foreign exchange fluctuations - profit/(loss)	0.1	(2.5)	(1.7)
Net profit	47.7	44.0	104.1
Ordinary Shares dividends			
1983 - Interim 6p per share (1982 5½p per share)	8.1	5.9	5.9
1982 - Final 9½p per share	-	-	10.3
Advance Corporation Tax written off	4.8	2.6	3.0
	12.9	8.5	19.2
Earnings retained for the period	£38.4	£35.5	£84.9
Earnings per Share	37.3p	38.9p	91.9p

Principal translation and conversion exchange rates used by the Group are:

	30th June 1983	30th June 1982	31st December 1982
£1 equals US\$	1.53	1.74	1.62
£1 equals Can\$	1.88	2.24	1.99

Operating Results	First Six Months 1983	First Six Months 1982
Sales of oil (barrels per day)	196,000	170,500
Oil refined (barrels per day)	76,800	79,000
Oil produced (barrels per day)	8,600	9,200
Gas produced (thousands of cubic feet per day)	131,800	177,900
Gross wells drilled	55	85
Oil and gas wells completed (in which the Group has varying interests)	40	49



Ultramar

Morgan House, 1 Angel Court
London EC2R 7AU

For a copy of the full Review of Group Financial Results and Operations for the Six Months to 30th June 1983 please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary at the above address.

Name _____
Address _____

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of Members is appointed to be held at The Glastonbury Hotel, 9 Montague Close, London Bridge, London, SE1 9DD on Wednesday 14th September 1983 at 12 noon when the following Resolution will be proposed as a SPECIAL RESOLUTION:

THAT in accordance with Section 13(2) of FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE ACT 1975 the Rules of Friends' Provident Life Office be amended as follows:

By the deletion from Rule 34 of sub-paragraphs (3)(a) and (b) which read:

(a) In addition to the other requirements of this rule, a person who is not a Friend shall not be eligible for appointment as a director unless there are at least five directors who are Friends.

(b) In this paragraph, "Friend" means a person who is a member of the Religious Society of Friends commonly called Quakers.

AND

By the deletion from Rule 48 of provisions (a) and (b) thereof which state:

Provided that:

(a) If all the directors whose Friends (as defined in rule 34) are present at the meeting or have previously in writing to the chairman or the secretary their vote on the question under consideration and their votes are unanimous and the question under consideration is one that in their unanimous opinion raises issues involving Friends' principles then the decision made shall be in accordance with such votes.

(b) If the decision is taken at the meeting when a decision is taken by the method described in paragraph (a) of this provision by a majority to resolve a statement of the facts and circumstances concerning the decision shall be made at the next general meeting.

If the foregoing special resolution is passed Rules 34 and 48 will then read as follows:

34 (1) The office of director shall, subject to paragraph (2) hereof, be held only by members.

(2) A person who is not a member may hold the office of director, provided that if he does not become a member within two months of his appointment as director, he shall vacate his office.

48. Questions arising at a meeting of the directors shall be decided by a majority of votes in the case of an equality of votes to have a second or casting vote.

A member entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote on his behalf and such proxy need not also be a Member of Friends' Provident Life Office. The instrument appointing a proxy, a specimen of which is set out in rule 30 of the Rules of Friends' Provident Life Office, must be deposited at Friends' Provident Life Office, Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA, at least four-eight hours before the time of the meeting. Proxy forms may be obtained on application to the Secretary.

Members intending to attend and vote personally at the meeting should be prepared to quote their policy number.

By Order of the Directors,
B. W. SWEETLAND, Secretary.

FRIENDS' PROVIDENT LIFE OFFICE

Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1QA

HOWARD MACHINERY PLC

GROUP RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED APRIL 1983

12 Months October 1982	6 Months April 1983	6 Months April 1982
£000	£000	£000
45,832 SALES	21,927	22,009
253 PROFIT (LOSS) BEFORE TAX	(146)	(519)

NOTES:

- During the first half of this year, the group maintained sales and improved operating performance despite no improvement in world agricultural machinery markets. The reduction in losses was achieved as a consequence of the major reorganisation undertaken over recent years and the market acceptance of new products, particularly within Europe where sales have again increased.
- In the United States, government grants to encourage farmers to reduce land under cultivation during this year continue to adversely affect demand. In both Australia and South Africa, the drought continued to limit sales over the period. The Australian company has been brought back to a more stable position although the market remains poor and unpredictable in the aftermath of the drought.
- The group's business is seasonal with the second half year producing better results than the first half. The current year should be no exception to this.
- Extraordinary costs in respect of the reorganisation in Australia, including the potential loss arising from the granting of an option over 42.5% of the Australian company, are estimated at £1.1 million. It is anticipated that the total of extraordinary costs for the year, including the Australian costs, will be significantly less than last year's charge of £2.3 million.

HOWARD
Oxford House, Oxford Street, Newbury, Berks. RG13 1JB



Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies

Results for First Half 1983

An interim report by Royal Dutch Petroleum Company and The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, p.l.c. on the results of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, in which their interests are 60% and 40% respectively.

Net income of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies for the second quarter of 1983 was £621 million compared with £380 million in the corresponding period in 1982. Net income for the first half of the year was £1,129 million against £794 million for the first half of 1982. Calculated on the basis of estimated current cost of supplies, second quarter earnings would be £614 million compared with £494 million in the second quarter of 1982. Earnings on this basis for the first half of 1983 would be £1,333 million against £953 million in the same period of 1982 (see explanation below the segment earnings table).

The improvement in second quarter net income, when compared with the same quarter of 1982, arose largely in the oil and gas segment outside North America. The weakness of sterling against most major currencies in comparison with the same period in 1982 had a positive impact on Group sterling results.

Excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada, and on an estimated current cost of supplies basis, there was a significant increase in the earnings of the exploration and production sector. This increase more than offset the deterioration in the manufacturing, marine and marketing sector, where the continuing intense market competition resulted in an erosion of proceeds exceeding the fall in crude oil and oil products acquisition costs. The chemicals segment reported a small profit compared with a loss a year ago. The metals segment continued to show losses, at a slightly increased level, whilst the coal segment continued to show a small profit. The nuclear sector gave rise to an exceptional loss of £36 million resulting from the write-off of the Barnwell (USA) reprocessing plant. Group net income benefited by £94

million following a re-assessment of certain provisions for taxation made in prior periods.

Shell Oil Company of the United States reported an increase of 3% in dollar earnings. This was amplified by the effect of weaker sterling against the dollar, resulting in the Group share of net income in sterling being 19% higher than a year ago. Shell Canada reported substantially lower dollar results attributable to the oil products segment and higher interest costs.

Capital expenditure and exploration expense at £2,229 million for the first half of the year was 4% below the corresponding period last year. Current assets net of current liabilities (excluding short-term debt, cash and short-term securities) declined in the first half of 1983 by £262 million, due principally to the reduction in inventory volumes and crude oil costs. Over the same period long-term debt increased by £111 million whilst short-term debt decreased by £50 million; cash and short-term securities stood at £5.0 billion after a rise of £945 million over the last six months. The long-term debt ratio remained unchanged at 26%.

Following the March 14 OPEC agreement on production quotas and the new reduced official price structure, spot prices for both crude oil and oil products recovered over the quarter. Along with the improvement in economic indicators in the USA and some other major industrial countries, there are indications that, in aggregate, Free World oil demand trends are no longer falling.

August 11, 1983

Notes

Financial:

1 Accounting policies for the first half 1983 are unchanged from those set out in the Royal Dutch and Shell Transport 1982 Annual Reports (pages 32 and 33).

2 Source and use of funds reflects movements in funds of Group companies as measured in their own currencies, translated into sterling at average rates of exchange for the quarters in question, and therefore excludes currency translation differences.

Under both Source and use of funds and Other financial data, long-term debt includes capitalized lease obligations and also the short-term part of each (i.e. that part repayable within one year). Long-term debt in Source and use of funds represents new borrowings net of repayments and currency exchange differences.

3 In the segment earnings table, associated companies' net interest expense, previously included in individual industry segments, is now included in Corporate Items, 1982 figures have been restated.

4 For illustrative purposes, to establish the division of income between Royal Dutch and Shell Transport, the percentage of net income applicable to them for the year 1982 has been used: Royal Dutch 61.8%, Shell Transport 38.2% (see 1982 Annual Reports, page 27. Notes 2 and 3 to the financial statements of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies).

Royal Dutch figures are translated from the underlying sterling at average rates for the quarters in question; Royal Dutch and Shell Transport dollars are translations of the respective underlying guilders or sterling at average rates for the quarters in question.

Operational data:

1 The figures shown in these tables represent the totals reported by Group companies (in which there is a majority interest), reflecting their dealings with third parties and with associated companies (in which the interest is 50% or less), natural gas sales, however, include the Group share of these associated companies. Crude oil supply and crude oil processed figures include natural gas liquids.

2 Certain volume figures have been restated as follows:

- Crude oil supply: Production of crude oil and natural gas liquids from gas fields, previously excluded, is now included.
- Crude oil supply/Oil sales: Certain royalties taken in kind, previously reported as purchases, are now excluded.
- Natural gas sales: Sales in the USA now include sales from royalty purchases.

Statement of income

	Second Quarter		First Half	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	£ million			
Revenues				
Sales proceeds and other operating revenues	13,210	14,661	26,183	29,591
less Sales taxes, excise duties and similar levies	1,936	2,252	3,722	4,339
	11,274	12,409	22,461	25,252
Share of earnings of associated companies	156	134	385	382
Interest and other income	134	133	258	254
	11,564	12,676	23,104	25,888
Costs and expenses				
Purchases and operating expenses	8,483	9,064	16,947	18,630
Selling, general and administrative expenses	840	965	1,612	1,883
Exploration	205	199	372	403
Research and development	72	87	141	175
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	399	508	776	1,045
Currency exchange losses/(gains)	33	39	55	(52)
Interest expense	182	140	347	313
Taxation	896	970	1,926	2,226
Income applicable to minority interests	74	83	134	136
	11,184	12,055	22,310	24,759
Net income for the period	380	621	794	1,129

Parent Companies' share in Group net income:

		per Ordinary Share			
		1982	1983	1982	1983
Royal Dutch	N.I.L.	4.11	6.20	8.64	10.98
US dollar equivalents	\$	1.56	2.22	3.32	4.01
<i>(based on 268,037,044 shares of N.I.L. 10 outstanding at June 30, 1983)</i>					
Shell Transport	pence	13.13	21.48	27.43	39.06
<i>(based on 1,104,834,414 shares of 25p outstanding at June 30, 1983)</i>					
New York Share equivalents	\$	0.93	1.33	1.99	2.41
<i>(one New York Share = four 25p Shares)</i>					

Other financial data

	£ million	
Cash and short-term securities, June 30	3,303	5,017
Long-term debt, June 30	6,505	7,822

Financial data

	Second Quarter		First Half	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	£ million			
Source and use of funds (see note 2)				
Funds generated				
Net income, including minority share	454	704	928	1,265
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	389	508	776	1,045
Provision for deferred taxation	200	125	410	632
Current assets and current liabilities (excluding short-term debt, cash and short-term securities)	54	375	101	282
Proceeds from sale of assets	58	48	196	97
Dividends of associated companies more/(less) than earnings	9	53	(1)	15
Other	75	55	121	22
	1,249	1,868	2,531	3,338
Funds applied				
Capital expenditure	1,054	1,011	1,957	1,826
Capitalized leases	27	2	29	3
Net investments in associated companies	127	77	193	143
Dividends paid: to Parent Companies	394	425	394	425
to minority interests	32	25	59	57
	1,634	1,540	2,632	2,454
Surplus/(deficit) before financing transactions	(385)	328	(101)	884
Net increase/(decrease) in: Long-term debt	192	(42)	264	111
Short-term debt	150	160	214	(50)
Increase/(decrease) in cash and short-term securities	(43)	446	377	945
Capital expenditure and exploration expense - by industry segment				
Capital expenditure				
Oil and gas: Rights and concessions	65	182	176	236
Exploration and production	448	386	856	781
Manufacturing	211	134	357	259
Marine	7	12	9	16
Marketing	94	118	145	184
Total oil and gas	825	832	1,543	1,476
Chemicals	103	94	178	178
Coal	34	11	73	23
Metals	70	50	127	111
Research	12	18	22	25
Other	10	6	14	13
	1,054	1,011	1,957	1,826
Exploration expense				
Oil and gas	195	193	356	390
Coal	4	1	6	4
Metals	6	5	10	9
	205	199	372	403
Total capital expenditure and exploration expense - by geographical area				
Europe	344	336	617	615
Other Eastern Hemisphere	258	209	479	410
USA	447	485	891	840
Other Western Hemisphere	203	168	333	348
Marine (oil and gas, and coal)	7	12	9	16
	1,259	1,210	2,329	2,229

Operational data

	Second Quarter		First Half	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	thousand barrels daily			
Crude oil supply				
Europe	707	721	681	746
Africa	460	430	470	381
Middle East	782	661	757	663
Far East and Australasia	306	308	325	298
USA	903	1,004	896	976
Canada	215	203	222	197
Other Western Hemisphere	375	376	382	376
	3,748	3,703	3,693	3,647
Crude oil processed	2,888	2,850	2,952	2,888
Oil sales				
Gasolines	1,461	1,486	1,388	1,426
Kerosines	358	381	379	380
Gas/Diesel oils	953	972	1,013	1,031
Fuel oil	801	729	869	786
Other products	436	455	417	451
Total oil products†	4,009	4,023	4,066	4,054
Crude oil	591	616	567	785
Total oil sales	4,600	4,639	4,633	4,819
† comprising:				
Europe	1,299	1,321	1,339	1,330
Other Eastern Hemisphere	846	797	869	814
USA	966	936	934	934
Other Western Hemisphere	573	560	576	543
Export sales	325	420	348	433
Natural gas sales				
	million cubic feet daily			
Europe	2,152	2,508	3,010	3,287
Other Eastern Hemisphere	539	734	533	680
USA	1,627	1,330	1,643	1,372
Other Western Hemisphere	554	526	627	607
	4,872	5,100	5,813	5,946
Chemicals sales proceeds				
	£ million			
Europe	484	565	947	1,114
Other Eastern Hemisphere	88	106	180	211
USA	417	507	650	999
Other Western Hemisphere	85	72	149	142
	1,075	1,250	2,126	2,466

† restated for comparative purposes

Earnings from operations by industry segment

Oil and gas

Excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada, earnings in the second quarter 1983 from oil and gas exploration and production activities at £339 million were 45% above the 1982 level. The improvement was due to increased equity crude oil production, lower exploration expense, higher natural gas sales and the strength of the US dollar against sterling. Net equity crude oil production amounted to 839,000 barrels daily compared with 721,000 barrels daily in the second quarter 1982, reflecting increases in production mainly from Nigeria and the UK North Sea. The Group share of net production in the UK North Sea was 254,000 barrels daily, which was lower than the immediately preceding quarter due to scheduled maintenance. Natural gas sales volumes rose by 20% compared with the second quarter of 1982, due principally to the build-up of Brent gas production (UK), deliveries of Malaysian LNG to Japan and increased sales in the Netherlands.

Shell Oil's oil and gas exploration and production dollar earnings increased by 8% over the corresponding period last year, largely due to increased natural gas prices and lower Windfall Profit Tax. In contrast, crude oil prices were lower and natural gas production decreased by 12%, reflecting weak demand. Shell Canada's earnings in this sector were higher than a year ago, due to higher crude oil and natural gas prices and lower exploration and pre-development expenses.

Excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada, reported earnings from the manufacturing, marine and marketing sector increased from £83 million in the second quarter 1982 to £134 million in the corresponding period in 1983. On the estimated current cost of supplies basis, however, there was a deterioration with earnings of £125 million in the second quarter 1983 compared with £205 million a year ago. Intense competition in major markets and the negative effect of a strong dollar contributed to a compression of current margins, with proceeds falling faster than average crude oil and oil products acquisition costs, between the second quarters of 1982 and 1983. Total oil products sales volumes remained virtually unchanged.

Shell Oil's underlying oil products earnings improved from \$70 million in the second quarter of 1982 (which excludes \$30 million relating to the sale of the Ciniza refinery) to \$87 million in 1983, as margins improved. Contributing to this improvement was a decline in supply cost exceeding the fall in selling prices, and the impact of higher utilization of refinery conversion units and the introduction of new West Coast facilities. Products sales volumes were unchanged. Shell Canada's oil products earnings declined substantially, reflecting severe price competition.

Chemicals

Excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada, and on an estimated current cost of supplies basis, chemicals showed earnings of £7 million in the second quarter 1983 compared with a loss of £8 million last year, reflecting a slight improvement in profitability in the major European countries. Petrochemicals sales volumes were 14% above the level of the corresponding quarter last year and total proceeds increased by a similar percentage. Although some improvement in margins was achieved by operating cost reductions and improved plant loading, prices for many products remained weak.

Shell Oil's chemicals earnings at \$5 million for the second quarter 1983 were essentially the same as last year, with low demand exerting downward pressure on prices and despite lower feedstock costs and higher sales volumes.

Other industry segments

On a Group-wide basis the coal segment reported earnings of £1 million compared with £6 million a year ago. Sales tonnages were higher than in the second quarter 1982, but the impact of very low prices gave rise to trading losses, which were offset by taxation adjustments. The metals segment losses for the second quarter of £23 million, compared with losses of £17 million a year ago, include a write-off attributable to the withdrawal from nickel operations in Australia and reflect the continuing weak market demand, particularly for bauxite/alumina. The improvement in the non-sectored corporate items from a loss of £111 million in 1982 to a loss of £8 million in 1983 largely reflects a re-assessment of certain tax provisions.

	Second Quarter		First Half	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	£ million			
Oil and gas				
Exploration and production:				
Group excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada	234	339	560	778
Shell Oil and Shell Canada	195	246	401	470
Manufacturing, marine and marketing:				
Group excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada	63	134	88	158
Shell Oil and Shell Canada	89	45	89	20
Oil and gas earnings	581	764	1,138	1,436
Chemicals				
Group excluding Shell Oil and Shell Canada	(7)	5	(10)	11
Shell Oil and Shell Canada	7	5	16	17
	-	10	6	28
Other industry segments	(16)	(62)	(10)	(93)
Earnings from operations	565	712	1,134	1,371
Corporate Items	(111)	(8)	(206)	(106)
Minority interests	(74)	(83)	(134)	(136)
Net income for the period†	380	621	794	1,129

† restated for comparative purposes (see note 3)

Estimated current cost of supplies

Most Shell companies use the first-in first-out (FIFO) method of inventory accounting, as a result of which the cost of sales reflects a mixture of costs incurred before the reporting period and costs incurred during the period. In recent years there have been marked movements in crude oil prices which have made comparisons between periods difficult to convey. A better indication of the underlying business performance is achieved if the cost of sales of the volumes sold in the period is based solely on the average cost of supplies incurred in the same period, and allowance is made for the estimated tax effects. On this estimated current cost of supplies basis, estimated earnings would be as shown below.

	Second Quarter		First Half	
	1982	1983	1982	1983
	£ million			
Oil and gas segment	696	755	1,305	1,541
Chemicals segment	(1)	(2)	(2)	27
Earnings on an estimated current cost of supplies basis	494	614	953	1,333

These earnings are more comparable with those of companies using the last-in first-out (LIFO) inventory basis after excluding any inventory drawdown profits.

Deputy chief of Energy Finance quits

By Our Financial Staff
Mr Hugh Nicholson has resigned as deputy chairman of Energy Finance and General Trust...

News analysis Why Portugal cannot pay or sack its workers

An increasing number of Portuguese companies are defaulting on wage payments. And the situation, as the companies' financial problems generally, is likely to get worse before it gets better...

Companies are not only unable to pay wages. Many have too many workers and, under the labour laws, cannot sack them. In the state-owned sector, 57 companies employ nearly 250,000 workers...

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. Luxembourg

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Meeting of Shareholders of Trade Development Bank Holding S.A. (TDB Holding) will be held at the registered office of the Company, 34, Avenue de la Porte-Neuve, Luxembourg at 2.30 p.m. on 25th August, 1983 for the purpose of considering and voting on the following matters:

- 1. Approval of the Chairman's Statement.
2. Approval of the Statutory Auditors' report and the unconsolidated financial statements of TDB Holding for the fiscal period ended March 31, 1983.
3. Approval of the unaudited consolidated financial statements of TDB Holding for the fiscal period ended March 31, 1983.
4. Discharge of the Directors and the Statutory Auditors concerning their duties relative to the fiscal period ended March 31, 1983.
5. Appropriation of profits and approval of - a distribution in cash of US\$ 800 for each 100 shares - a distribution of 18 shares par value US\$ 0.60 of the Common Stock of American Express Company for each 100 shares - a distribution of 10 warrants exercisable in shares of par value US\$ 0.60 of the Common Stock of American Express Company for each 100 shares.

By Order of the Board, Edmond J. Saffa Chairman

Any shareholder whose shares are in bearer form and who wishes to attend the General Meeting in person must produce a depositary receipt or present his share certificates to gain admission. If he wishes to be represented at the meeting, he must lodge a proxy duly completed together with a depositary receipt at the registered office of TDB Holding...

The remuneration of the form of proxy will not produce a shareholder from attending in person and voting at the meeting if he so desires. The resolutions may be passed by a simple majority provided that no single shareholder or proxy may cast votes in respect of more than one-fifth of the issued capital or more than two-fifths of all shares represented in person or by proxy at the meeting.

WALL STREET

Table with multiple columns listing stock prices and market data for various companies and indices.

Systems margins help lift Plessey

A strong performance from Plessey's electronics systems division pushed first quarter profits ahead sharply, but first results from the telecommunications side meant the figures were at the bottom of the City's estimates. Electronic systems have benefited from stiffer margins and the first deliveries of the military Piramigm and UKADGE communication systems are now being made.

NOTES:

Subject to the relevant resolutions being approved, the distribution will take place starting on August 29, 1983. (i) in respect of registered shares to shareholders on the register as at August 15, 1983 and (ii) in respect of bearer shares against collective and simultaneous surrender of coupons nos. 12, 13 and 14 to any of the Paying Agents listed below. Coupons no. 12 will be exchanged for cash in US\$...

- *Manufacturers Hanover Limited, 8 Prince Street, London EC2P 2EN.
*Banque Internationale à Luxembourg S.A., 2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.
*Manufacturers Hanover Bank Belgium, 13, Rue de Ligne, 1000 Brussels.
*Manufacturers Hanover Banque Nordique, 20, Rue de la Ville-Léopold, 7008 Paris.
*Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, 40 Wall Street, New York, N.Y. 10015.
*Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, Boekenhofstraat 31/33, Frankfurt.
*Republic National Bank of New York, 425 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018.
*Trade Development Bank, 21, Corso S. Gotardo, 6810 Chiasso, I.
*Trade Development Bank, 30 Monument Street, London EC3R 8LH.
*Trade Development Bank (France) S.A., 20, Place Vendôme, 75001 Paris.
*Trade Development Bank (Luxembourg) S.A., 34, Avenue de la Porte-Neuve, Luxembourg.
*Trade Development Bank, 2, Place du Lac, 1204 Geneva.
*Paying Agent of TDB Holding.

Table listing Authorized Units and Insurance Funds with columns for Name, Bid, Offer, and Yield.

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World athletics championships: event is too long and lacks selective entry

High-voltage charge generated by Lewis prevents anti-climax

From David Miller, Helsinki

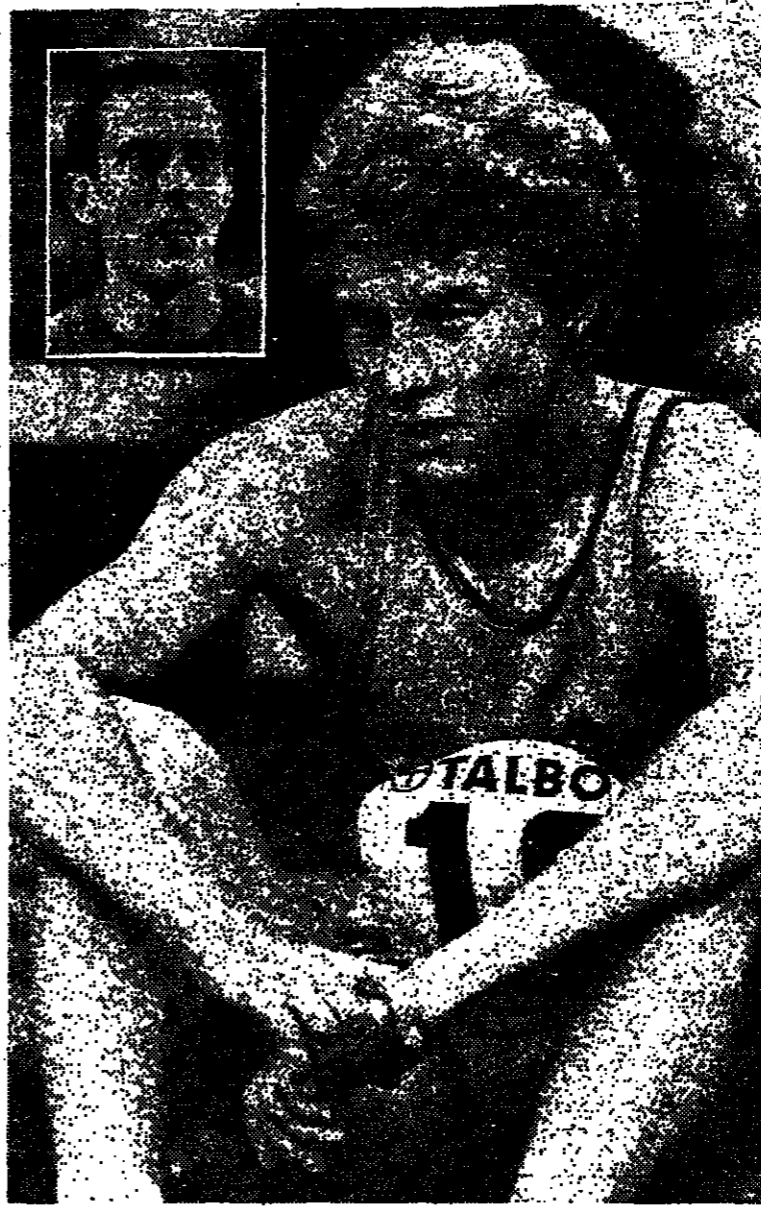


At the halfway stage of the first world athletics championships here it remains arguable whether the sport has gained or lost by detaching the main event of its four-yearly calendar from the Olympic Games...

It is Lewis who has so far saved the championships from being something of an anti-climax. Wednesday was the first day that the event really took off. It is too long, for the sake of getting seven days of TV and sponsorship money...

qualification level has to be the priority for Rome in 1987. The IAAF should surely look at the idea of a two-tier system: a standard rather higher than the present level, which would entitle any country to two, or possibly three, competitors and an elite qualifying standard within range of the world record...

wealth champion, who has been marginally overshadowed by those two other British champions until last year, is modest and low key about his prospects. He admits that there are other athletes here, such as Daly Thompson, who train much harder than he.



Cram seems to be pondering one of his keenest rivals Overt (inset) as he prepares for the 1500 metres in Helsinki

BOXING Fight for survival in Vegas cauldron

From Ivor Davies Las Vegas

Three British photographers parked themselves in the shade of a palm tree at the mouth hole of the James Country Club golf course the other morning. It was quarter to seven in the morning, but the savage desert heat had already climbed to 94°F...

The twelve round contest is being held in a converted parking lot outdoors. With television lights and cameras beaming the action live to Britain, it does not take an expert to realise that it will be a hot 115 degrees heat, the fighters will be well cooked on both sides by the time its over.

Moroccan driven by a burning ambition sweats it out in the midday sun

From Pat Butcher

In the land of the midnight sun, the midday sun has not been doing too badly recently. Said Aouita frisked through the end of a midday training session at the athletes' village on the lake at Dipoli, not far from here yesterday. "It's hotter in Morocco," Aouita said, by way of explaining his choice of training time.

from the organizers the previous year. "I wanted to beat Overt in 1982. I was 3:34, but was told that I was going to be 3:30. I didn't train for a month. This year they announced that I was running. I simply returned their rebuke."

running 5,000 metres in 13.05 sec in Zurich on August 24. But first, the world championships. "I did think of doing the 800 metres and the 1,500 metres, and I would have done if the 1,500 metres came first on the programme. It is true that this is already my biggest year so far and I confess I'm a little worried about running three races in three days."

Clubs fly home top competitors

Several athletes who have completed their events in the world championships in Helsinki are being flown home by their clubs...

A vocal labour of love is muted by limitations

From Nicholas Hasting

The British athletes may be complaining about their daily expenses allowance here but there is one expatriate Englishman who is working full-time for nothing in the Olympic Stadium. As the man responsible for informing the crowd at the stadium in English, Martin Easterbrook is one of over 2,000 helpers working voluntarily at these championships for nothing more than the sheer enjoyment. All he will receive are his travelling expenses from Tampere, Finland's second largest city, where he made his home 12 years ago.

But it is probably a small price to pay for Easterbrook, a self-confessed sports fanatic, as he watches the action from his marvellous vantage point alongside the track.

De Castella running hot

Helsinki (Reuters) - Robert de Castella expressed his anger yesterday over the starting time of the men's marathon which is scheduled for 2.0 local time on Sunday.

He said that early morning or evening, and not during the afternoon heat would be the best time to begin the event. The Australian, who is the favourite to win in the absence of Alvaro Salazar, also complained that the Olympic Games marathon in Los Angeles next year, will start at 5.0 when pollution would be at its worst. "It is scheduled for the afternoon which is fit with East Coast television," he alleged.

Miss Decker, the 3,000 metres world champion, and Miss Waitz, the women's marathon gold medal winner, shared their opinions at a press conference at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California filed a suit in Los Angeles calling for the two distances to be added to the Olympic programme.

Miss Waitz said: "They should have the 10,000 and the 5,000 instead of the 3,000. If women wish to run a longer distance they have to go for the marathon and there's a very big gap between the 3,000 and the marathon."

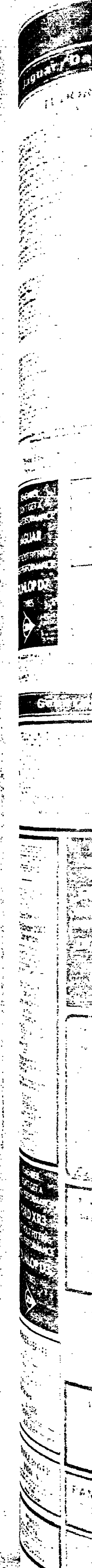
Medals table

Table with columns for Gold, Silver, Bronze medals for various countries including USA, East Germany, Soviet Union, etc.

Business Opportunities section containing various ads for property, coaching, and services.

Business Opportunities section containing ads for coaching and services.

Car Buyer's Guide section featuring advertisements for Mercedes-Benz, VW, and other vehicles.



PERSONAL COLUMNS

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

HOLIDAYS THIS WEEKEND

SPETS FROM £199pp POROS FROM £249 CORFU FROM £299pp CRETE FROM £299pp FLIGHT ONLY ATHENS £149 CORFU £164

GREEK ISLANDS

14th AUGUST FROM £179 Inclusive holidays to over 25 Greek islands in villas, apartments and hotels including our island wandering programme.

FOR SALE BELLARIS TABLE, immaculate dining table, curved legs, new cloth and buffers, original rosewood, excellent condition, £2,000.

RENTALS ISLINGTON 2 outstanding flat ref. furnished, double garage, 2 bedrooms, excellent condition, £250 p.w.

WANTED WANTED good condition, Portuguese large sofa, 3 seater, £750. LP or cash, 01-836 2222.

SERVICES BUSINESS CONSULTANT, 25 years experience, industrial/retail/commercial, £100 p.h.

RENTALS VICTORIA SQUARE SW1 Spacious family home in charming Victorian square, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, £275 p.w.

RENTALS CHESTNONS 01-629 4313

RENTALS KEITH CARDALE GROVES KNIGHTSBRIDGE SW1 A superb 4 bedroom house with swimming pool and 2 reception rooms, £275 p.w.

RENTALS HIGHGATE VILLAGE 12th Avenue, 2 bed flat, £125 p.w.

RENTALS NEAR RAVENSCOURT PARK Long let, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, swimming pool, £200 p.w.

RENTALS BELMONT COURT SW9 Modern 3 bedroom house, £275 p.w.

RENTALS THE SHORT LET SPECIALISTS - 2 bedrooms, £125 p.w.

RENTALS CHELSEA, Knightsbridge, Belgrave, Park Lane, £275 p.w.

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FRISBY - On 12th August at Princess Alexandra Hospital, London, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr and Mrs J. Frisby.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

- 6.00 Context AM, News, weather, sport and traffic information, available to everyone with a television set.
6.30 Breakfast Time presented by Sue Cook and Andrew Harvey. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; sport at 8.45, 7.18 and 8.15; tonight's TV (between 7.30 and 7.50); Morning papers (7.32 and 8.23). The 100 metres, first event in Daley Thompson's decathlon bid in Helsinki, will be screened sometime between 8.50 and 9.00.
9.00 Agony Aunt Pat. Kenneth Williams supplies all the voices (7.25 Jackson; Rula Lanksa reads the Polish fairy tale called 'The Trumpeter of Crotoy'; 8.45 Why Don't You...; 9.45 Why Don't You...; 10.10 Close Down.
10.55 Cricket/Athletics: The second day's play in the Third Test at Lord's, and, at about 12.15, the British Athletics Championships in Helsinki (further coverage at 1.45 and at 9.25).
1.05 News After Noon: with Richard Whitmore and Vivien Greengard. 1.27 Financial reports; 1.55 news headlines; 1.57 Newsline.
1.45 The First World Athletics Championships: Daley Thompson completes the first day's events in the decathlon. Other events include the men's 5,000m walk (at 2.00) and the men's javelin (at 4.30).
5.20 News with Jan Leeming; 5.40 South East at Six.
6.00 The First World Athletics Championships: We see the 1,500 heats in which Steve Ovett and Steve Cram form a powerful British challenge.
7.35 Best of the West Sam feels pang of jealousy when Evie's former fiancée turns up, hoping to win her back. A comedy western.
8.00 Comic Roots: The first in a new series of comic-strip adventures about the early lives of comedians. Tonight: Michael Palin (see Choice).
8.30 Summer Harty: Russell Harty, the astronomer Patrick Moore and Radio 1 disc jockey Dave Lee Travis join the crowds at Lord's on Monday Day. The exhibits range from the deadly serious to the outrageously funny.
9.00 News with Michael Burk. And weather prospects for the weekend.
9.25 The First World Athletics Championships: David Loin introduces highlights from today's big events, including Daley Thompson's decathlon attempt.
9.40 Shamrock: The vicious murder of a politician bears all the signs of a terrorist execution, and Shamrock's friend Bunky James is sprung from jail to help investigate the killing. With Kevin Dobson and Charlie Fields.
10.30 Seconds Out: Boxing comedy series. Peter O'Connell (Robert Lindsay) is about to box for the British lightweight title. Everything at the camp is going well - except for the fact that Peter won't stay in it. (7).

tv-am

- 6.25 Good Morning Britain: with Anne Diamond, Martin Wainwright. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 8.55; Sport at 6.45, 7.45 and 8.30; Morning papers at 7.05; Competition at 7.25 and 8.25; Weekend television preview at 8.25; Dialecting with Diana Dora (and her volunteers) at 8.45; Flat on the Road (in and around Edinburgh) at 9.00; Close Down at 9.25.
12.00 The World's Athletics Championships: Live coverage from Helsinki, introduced by Dickie Davies. The spotlight is on Daley Thompson and his decathlon battle against Jurgens Hingsen. Also, the early heats of the men's and women's 200m. Further coverage at 4.30 and at 6.05.
3.35 Mystery at Fire Island: Mystery yarn about two young cousins whose friend disappears. With Seth Ehlers.
4.30 The World's Athletics Championships: Back to Helsinki. Includes the javelin event.
5.30 News from ITN; 5.45 Thames weekend news; 5.55 Police 5.
6.25 The World's Athletics Championships: The 1500m heats, and the semi-final of the 500m.
7.00 Heamill Five: McGarratt and Co versus a team of crooks in an oriental art. With Jack Lord.
8.30 The Cabage Patch: Family life comedy series, starring Julia Foster and Betty Marsden. Tonight: the difficulty of keeping a secret.
8.00 The A-Team: Soldiers of fortune return to the screen in a new series starring George Peppard. Tonight, the team are called by a group of New York shopkeepers who are being forced to pay protection money to a mob. Hannibal (Peppard) leads the chase to the mob boss, posing as a TV repair shop owner.
10.30 News from ITN.
10.30 The Untouchables: Crime series, resurrected from black-and-white television days, and set in this time. Tonight, the crime-sister Elton Ness. Tonight, he and his men str up a 'horns' nest when they rectify a mistake that has led to a kidnapping.
11.30 South of Watford: The local news for Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, including the annual shooting match at Bisley, organized by the National Rifle Association.
12.00 Night Thoughts: with the Rev Dr Kenneth Grant. And Close Down.

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University (until 8.10): Maths methods; 6.30 Maths with wings; 6.55 Foreign matters; 7.20 Language opportunities; 7.45 Study in control.
10.30 Play School: John Eyers' story 'The Moon in the Puddle' (repeated at 4.20); Close Down at 10.55.
1.35 Close Down: Live coverage of the Third Test at Lord's, and, at 2.15, racing from Newbury. We see the 2.30, 3.00, 3.30 (The Hungerford Stakes) and the 4.00.
4.20 Play School: Set entry for 10.30 am.
4.45 Jigsaw: Introducing fun for the youngsters (from BBC1); 5.35 The Peddlers (from BBC1).
6.15 Lost in a Crowd: A second chance to see a first World War film about the lonely people, first seen travelling in the same train (7).
6.55 Six Fifty-five: Frankie Vaughan joins Bob Langley on a walk round Derwentwater and recalls some of his childhood memories. He was evacuated to the Lake District during the war. Plus music by the Dutch folk group Flairck.
7.25 News with sub-titles.
7.30 Fun to Imagine: Science made intelligible to everybody by Richard Feynman, Nobel Laureate and Professor of Theoretical Physics at Caltech, California.
7.45 Civilization: The sixth film in the Kenneth Clark series takes us to the Reformation, and takes in Elizabethan England and the France of Montaigne and the Germany of Durer. They are extracts from Shakespeare plays, performed by a group of actors including Ian Richardson and Patrick Stewart (7).
8.35 Gardeners' World: The seven gardeners in one at Whiteley, which took John and Barbara Maudslayi eight years to knock into delightful shape.
9.00 My Music: Frank Muir and John Amis take us to Denis Norden and Ian Wallace, with Steve Race putting the questions.
9.25 World About Us Special: Bloody Mary. Another chance to see this much-praised film about the booby brothers of the Tesco Park, in Kenya. Made by actor/producer Bill Travers and director/cameraman Simon Trevor (7).
10.55 The Tonight Bulletin and tonight on the day's main news stories.
11.45 Cricket: The Third Test. The best of the action in the second day's play at Lord's. Introduced by Richard Bensusan. Ends at 12.25am.

BBC 2

- 6.05 Open University (until 8.10): Farming Today; 6.25 Shipping Forecast; 6.30 Today, including 6.45 Prayer for the Day 6.55, 7.25 Weather 7.00, 8.00 Today's News 7.25, 8.25 Sport 8.30, 7.30, 8.20 News Summary 7.45 through to the Day.
8.43 'Castors Away' by Hester Burton (9) and 8.57 Weather.
9.00 News: Desert Island Discs: Sir Frederick Glibber, the eminent doctor (7).
10.00 News: International Assignment.
10.30 Morning Show: 'Scaping the Natives' by Ian Morris. The music in Shirley Dorn.
10.45 Chariot Race.
11.00 News: Travel: The Great Northern Expedition. An account of the first expedition across Siberia 250 years ago, surveying the arctic coasts (7).
11.48 Nature Selection: A feature about nature.
12.00 News: You and Yours. Consumer advice. Food: 'The Best of British' 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One.
1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping.
2.00 News: Women's Hour from Bristol. Includes an item about travelling ladies in the last century. Plus episode 8 of the 'Peggy Page' and a film in a state of normal operation.
3.00 News: The King Must Die by Mary Renault (10).
4.00 News: Just After Four. More news from America's 'nesting habits'.
4.10 In Business Special (new series): Looking at three programmes looking at how industry tries to influence people who make decisions in the Common Market.
4.40 Sport: 'Pudd'nhead Wilson' by Mark Twain (just in part).
5.00 PNC News Magazine 5.55 Weather.
6.00 The Six O'Clock News: Finance Report.

CHOICE

- double-act with Terry Jones, another Monty Python, appears now as not so much Beyond the Fringe as Beyond the Pail. Mr Palin is clearly inspired by the Goon Show, a dab of shares with many comedy actors. And, spare enough, joint Archagon Spire Milligan pops up tonight, bang on cue, to reminisce characteristically.
In a rather thin night on television, two repeats shine out like good deeds in a stormy world: they are BLOODY IVORY (BBC 2, 9.25), a remarkable film about elephant poaching in Kenya and a game warden's fight to stop it; and part of Kenneth Clark's CIVILISATION (BBC 2, 7.45), which offers the bonus of some acted bits of Shakespeare.

CHOICE

- The acid test of radio programmes like IMAGINING NUMBERS (Radio 3, 9.45), which deals with the application of mathematics to the real (i.e. non-mathematical) world, is not only whether they are intelligible without pictures but whether they make any sense to the scientifically thick. I must confess there was the odd moment when Professor Michael Atiyah, of Oxford University, lost me, but ultimately the combination of enthusiasm and analogy began to start his mind. Professor Atiyah, who struts away from the starting line sounding like a cross between the late Professor Jock, Monty, and Ned Sheridan, is calmly introduced, then questioned, by John Mackay. The contrast in voices is one of the less scientific delights of this brain-prodding 45 minutes.

TONIGHT'S PROM

- 7.30 Mozart: Symphony No 51 in G major, K. 509 (Paris).
8.35 Maxwell Davies: Sinfonia Concertante (first performance). Mendelssohn: Symphony No. 4 in A major (Italian). Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor), Academy of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. Conductor: Neville Martinson. Radio 3, Stereo.
and Larson (Music for Orchestra, 1950). Records: 10.00 Beethoven Piano Music: played by Bernard Roberts. The recital includes the Polonaise, Op. 99, Variations and Fugue on a theme of Prometheus, Op. 35, and Bagatelles Op. 120 (7).
10.55 Western and Howells: Wesley and Howells: Wesley's The Widowers and Ascribe unto the Lord, and Howells's The Thin, earth, for chattering. With the combined talents of Winchester, Salisbury and Chichester cathedrals and the Southampton University Choir.
11.35 Dvorak: The Trio in E minor, Op. 91.
12.10 Midway Concert. Part one: Ravel (Mother Goose suite) and Rouseff (Symphony No. 3); 1.00 News.
1.05 Concerts: A selection of Foreign radio broadcasts, presented by Angus Mc Dermid.
1.20 Midway Concert. Part two: Barock (Love Scene; Queen Mad; Scherzo; Pastor of the Capelle (Romeo and Juliet); 1.35 La Borina Chanson; Norma Burrows (pop) and Stuart Broad (piano) perform Fauré's song cycle to poems from the Verlaine collection.
2.20 Beethoven: Media String Quartet, Op. 127, No. 2.
3.00 The British Symphony: The Philharmonic play Peter Maxwell Davies's Symphony 1: Simon Rattle conductor; from Lindisfarne Cathedral.
4.00 Choral Evensong: from Lindisfarne Cathedral.
4.55 News.
5.00 Mainly for Pleasure: The presenter is David Howells. Includes Louise Barkley's Sarcophagus for Op. 12 and Malcolm Arnold's Divertimento.
Op. 37.
6.30 Music for Guitar: played by Carlos Bonell. Includes Costa's Tarantella (Op. 38) and Barrios's Armonias de America and La Catedral.
7.00 Coccuz and la Triosime Passacalle: Alec McCowen reads a Practical Joke: As the Windmills of My Mind. With music by Georges Auric.
7.30 Proms 53: From the Royal Albert Hall. Part one: Mozart and Britten (see 11.15).
8.15 In the Start: Part of this history of the BBC. Leonard Woolf's broadcasts by politicians (7).
8.35 Proms: Part two: (see panel).
8.45 Imagining Numbers: with Professor Michael Atiyah of Oxford University.
10.30 Back Richard Marlow and the Court String Quartet play the G minor quartet.

Radio 2

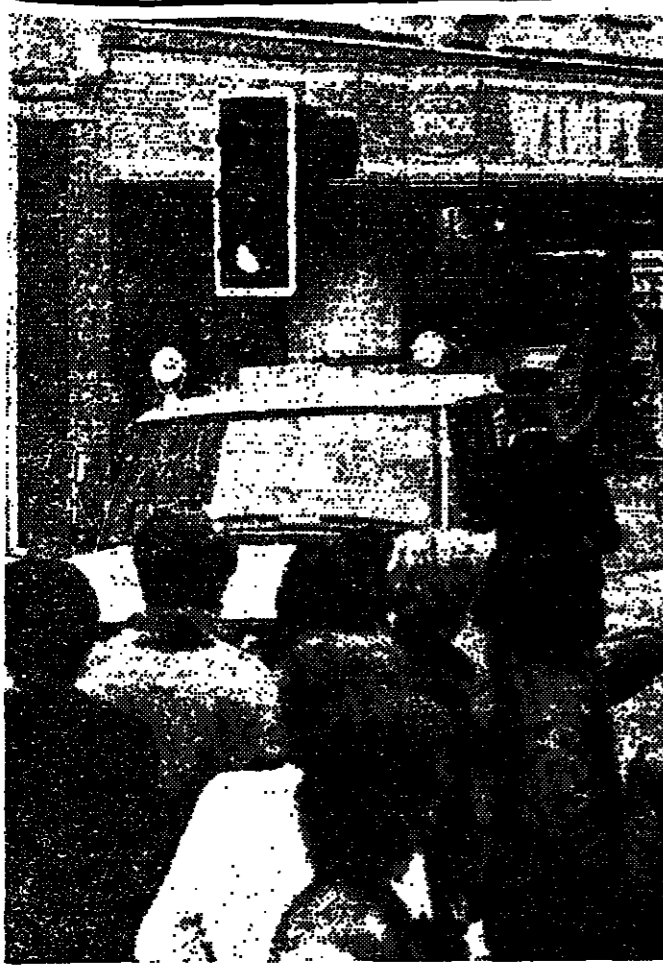
- News on the hour every hour (except 8.00pm and 9.00pm) Major Bulletins: 7.00am, 8.00, 1.00pm, 5.00 and 12.00 midnight; 6.00 Colin Berry; 7.30 Ray Moore; 7.50 Jerry Young; 8.30 12.30 Music While You Work; 12.30 Gloria Hunniford including 2.00 Sports Desk; 2.30 Steve Jones including 3.02 Sports Desk; 3.00 David Heald; 3.02 Sports Desk; 3.30 Sports Desk; 4.00 John Dunn including 4.45 Sport and Classified Results; 7.20 Cricket; 7.30 Victor Swire; 7.45 The Victor Swire Orchestra at the Radio 2 Ballroom; 8.15 Friday Night is Music Night; 8.30 Hugh Downs and Howard Stern; 8.45 Sports Desk; 9.00 Alan presents You and the Night and the Music.

Radio 1

- News on the half hour from 6.30am until 8.30pm and then 10.00 and 12.00 midnight; 6.00 Adrian John; 6.00 Mike Smith with the Radio 1 Roadshow in Southsea; 12.30 Newswatch; 12.45 Andy Peebles (Radio 1); 12.50 Peter Powell's Select-a-Disc; 3.00 Newsbeat; 5.45 Roundtable; 7.00 Andy Peebles; 8.00 The Friday Rock Show; 12.00 midnight. VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00am with Radio 2, 10.00pm with Radio 1, 12.00-5.00am with Radio 2.

WORLD SERVICE

- 6.00 Newswatch; 6.30 The Art of Janet Baker; 7.00 News; 7.30 Twenty-four Hours; 8.00 News; 8.30 World News; 9.00 Programme; 9.30 World News; 10.00 Ten Commandments; 10.30 World News; 10.59 Programme; 11.30 World News; 11.59 Programme; 12.00 World News; 12.29 Programme; 1.00 World News; 1.29 Programme; 2.00 World News; 2.29 Programme; 3.00 World News; 3.29 Programme; 4.00 World News; 4.29 Programme; 5.00 World News; 5.29 Programme; 6.00 World News; 6.29 Programme; 7.00 World News; 7.29 Programme; 8.00 World News; 8.29 Programme; 9.00 World News; 9.29 Programme; 10.00 World News; 10.29 Programme; 11.00 World News; 11.29 Programme; 12.00 World News; 12.29 Programme; 1.00 World News; 1.29 Programme; 2.00 World News; 2.29 Programme; 3.00 World News; 3.29 Programme; 4.00 World News; 4.29 Programme; 5.00 World News; 5.29 Programme; 6.00 World News; 6.29 Programme; 7.00 World News; 7.29 Programme; 8.00 World News; 8.29 Programme; 9.00 World News; 9.29 Programme; 10.00 World News; 10.29 Programme; 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Mr Horworth removing his equipment from the back of a police vehicle outside the Wimpy Bar. He died minutes later when the bomb exploded in a cloud of smoke.

Bomb disposal men

Continued from page 1
was 54 minutes after the warning had been given.

The situation in the *London Gazette* says: "It is clear Mr Horworth was aware that the connected packages were probably a time-elapsed fully armed explosive device".

However, he went to examine the packages and three minutes later was killed instantly when a bomb exploded.

Mr Gurney had already won a George Medal while working as a warrant officer with the RAO in Northern Ireland in 1972. He is also the holder of the MBE for work in bomb disposal.

He arrived in Oxford Street shortly after Mr Horworth was killed. He saw the damage and the body of his colleague. He was called almost immediately to another package found in a lavatory at the Debenhams store.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal John Peacock Barry, Reserve Constable, RUC, for gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Constable, RUC, for gallantry in Northern Ireland. Mrs Alison Pearson, Constable, RUC, for gallantry in Northern Ireland. Sgt. Stephen Gordon, South Yorkshire County Fire Service, who rescued a woman from a seventh-storey flat. Queen's Constable for Brno Constable Alexander Bennett, Sergeant, Loftham and Gordon Police for services leading to the detection of a violent man armed with a sawn-off shotgun. Roger Galloway, Reserve Constable, RUC, for gallantry in Northern Ireland. Raymond Dawport (deceased), Constable, Merseyside Police, for services in attempting to arrest the driver of a stolen car. Neil Foreman, Constable, City of London Police, and Peter Robert Jones, Constable, Metropolitan Police, for services in the pursuit of two armed criminals following a street robbery. David Hugh Foster, Loftham and Gordon Police, for services in attempting to arrest a man who had raped a young woman. John Thon, Sgt. Stephen Gordon, South Yorkshire County Fire Service, for services in rescuing a woman from a seventh-storey flat. Sgt. Stephen Gordon, South Yorkshire County Fire Service, for services in rescuing a woman from a seventh-storey flat. Sgt. Stephen Gordon, South Yorkshire County Fire Service, for services in rescuing a woman from a seventh-storey flat.

Kidnapped ministers released

Continued from page 1
armoured vehicles across the narrow lanes out of the town to prevent the militia men of Mr Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party from following. The ministers had been kidnapped in an area under Israeli occupation.

Their release and the ceasefire that coincided with it tended to obscure an ominous development during the morning when, at the height of the battles near the airport, Lebanese Army troops and Christian Phalangist militia both began firing heavy artillery at Druze positions at the same time.

The first Druze shells hit the airport runways almost at a Czechoslovak Airlines aircraft that took off for Prague rather faster than usual.

Chile troops out in force for protest

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile's military authorities imposed a dust-to-dawn curfew and staged an unprecedented show of force yesterday as a reshuffled Cabinet faced the fourth nationwide day of protest called by opposition groups against President Augusto Pinochet's military Government.

A military communique declared a curfew from 6.30 pm to 5.30 am in the capital, as lorries of troops carrying machine guns and other automatic weapons backed paramilitary police patrolling the city. Their orders were to shoot to kill.

Witnesses said riot police fired tear gas to break up a demonstration at the University of Chile law school, which was later closed to prevent further trouble. The education faculty was also shut until next Tuesday.

Libya leads rebels into Chad town

Continued from page 1
In Libya, the official Jana news agency said that negotiations had begun to halt the fighting in Chad.

Paris: President Mobutu Sese Seko Zaire, who has sent men and equipment to Chad, yesterday spent 40 minutes in Paris with President Francois Mitterrand to discuss the worsening military position (Roger Beardwood writes).

The French Defence Ministry said yesterday that 180 troops sent to Chad as military advisers would be strengthened by 320 more.

Today's events

- New exhibitions: The Lancaster Bomber, Manchester Air and Space Museum, Liverpool Road, Manchester; Tue to Fri 11 to 6, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 1 to 6, closed Mon; (from today until Oct 10).
- Paintings by Elizabeth Shackleton, Glanville Gallery, Lloyds House, 16 Lloyd Street, Manchester; Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Thurs 9 to 8, closed Sat and Sun; (until Sept 9).
- Folding Pieces by Chris Jennings, and work by Tim Staples, Axiom Centre for the Arts, Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until Sept 6).
- Exhibitions in progress: Road Safety Posters of the World, Museum of Transport, Albert Drive, Glasgow; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until Sept 30).
- Old World, New World: Antiquities from the collection of Sir Henry Wellcome, Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until 1985).
- National Art Collections Fund anniversary exhibition: works acquired for the permanent collection with the aid of the Fund, Usher Gallery, Lincoln Road, Lincoln; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5; (until Sept 11).
- Leading entries for the design competition for a new gallery for the Oriental Museum, University of Durham School of Oriental Studies, Leazes Hill, Durham; Mon to Fri 9 to 5, Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until Sept 10).
- Sculpture in the Garden: work in stone, metal and wood by sculptors from the Oxfordshire Sculpture Project, Oxfordshire County Museum, Fletcher House, Park Street, Woodstock; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6; (until Sept 30).
- The Golden Age of Richard III, City Museum and Art Gallery, Brunswick Road Gloucester; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (until Oct 1).
- The Story of the Artists International Association 1933-53; Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford; Tues to Sun 10 to 6, closed Mon; (until Sept 4).
- Last chance to see: Torrie Collection of Old Master paintings, bronzes and marbles, exhibition to mark the quatercentenary of Edinburgh University, Talbot Rice Art Centre, Old Sculpture Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).
- Welsh Open Photography 1983, Carmarthen Museum, Abercromby, Carmarthen; Mon to Sat 10 to 4.30; (ends tomorrow).
- Düsseldorf Exchange (Reading artists) Blagden, Reading; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).
- Norman Stevens Prints Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun and Mon; (ends tomorrow).
- Modern British pottery, Peter Dingley Gallery, 16 West Street, Stratford-upon-Avon; Mon to Sat 9.30 to 1.30 and 2.30 to 5.30, Thurs 9.30 to 1.30, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).
- MUSIC: Organ recital by Gillian Weir, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, 8.6. Concert by National Youth Brass Band of Wales, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,206

This puzzle, used at the London B regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship, was solved within 30 minutes by 45 per cent of the finalists.

30 Across: 1. Strangest rite, not all tedious (8). 2. Bird died in game in church (9). 3. The court of Ferdinand and Isabella? (5). 4. State sources of all rivers in Zambia or North Africa (7). 5. Endlessly collecting fruit (6). 6. In the paragonage, refuge for a wild animal (6). 7. This coat for show? (7). 8. One such bird said to have been spoken the rich? (5). 9. Last summer's folly (9). 10. Element to be seen in The King's Head (9). 11. Tree as writer (5). 12. Chaucer is hard, like Hamlet (6). 13. Large tin needs repair to make it whole (8). 14. Down: 1. Elevate one among many (5). 2. High time to hold it up, that's the idea (6). 3. Arkwright's wood in the state of Minnesota (6). 4. Stops operation by these manual workers (9). 5. Fashionable-sounding ring for Boniface (9). 6. Like him, for example, in the promotional sense (8). 7. British writer's novel ski-run (6). 8. Retailer to get money out of island (7). 9. Cameraman's supporter makes journey to Cambodians' centre (6). 10. Stick at the wicket (5). 11. Morgan losing his head and his temper (5).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,205
ACROSS: 1. Strangest rite, not all tedious (8). 2. Bird died in game in church (9). 3. The court of Ferdinand and Isabella? (5). 4. State sources of all rivers in Zambia or North Africa (7). 5. Endlessly collecting fruit (6). 6. In the paragonage, refuge for a wild animal (6). 7. This coat for show? (7). 8. One such bird said to have been spoken the rich? (5). 9. Last summer's folly (9). 10. Element to be seen in The King's Head (9). 11. Tree as writer (5). 12. Chaucer is hard, like Hamlet (6). 13. Large tin needs repair to make it whole (8). 14. Down: 1. Elevate one among many (5). 2. High time to hold it up, that's the idea (6). 3. Arkwright's wood in the state of Minnesota (6). 4. Stops operation by these manual workers (9). 5. Fashionable-sounding ring for Boniface (9). 6. Like him, for example, in the promotional sense (8). 7. British writer's novel ski-run (6). 8. Retailer to get money out of island (7). 9. Cameraman's supporter makes journey to Cambodians' centre (6). 10. Stick at the wicket (5). 11. Morgan losing his head and his temper (5).

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.76	1.68
Canada \$	25.45	27.80
Denmark Kr	1.89	1.81
Finland Mkk	15.05	14.35
France Fr	8.57	8.47
Germany DM	12.53	12.50
Green Dr	143.00	132.00
Hongkong \$	11.55	10.90
Ireland Pt	1.32	1.26
Italy Lira	2470.00	2350.00
Japan Yen	384.00	364.00
Netherlands Gld	4.67	4.65
Norway Kr	11.62	11.05
Portugal Esc	187.00	177.00
South Africa Rd	1.99	1.84
Spain Ptas	230.50	219.50
Sweden Kr	12.24	11.64
Switzerland Fr	3.37	3.28
USA \$	1.52	1.47
Yugoslavia Dar	165.00	153.00

Food prices

As market prices of home-produced lamb continue to tumble, shoppers are reaping the benefits. The price of a 70p a pound and Dewhurst shops are undercutting most supermarkets with whole leg at as little as £1.05 in some areas. Beef and pork prices are mostly steady, although Sainsbury's has reduced topside and silverside to £1.88 a pound, and Presto have forebats at £1.56 a pound.

Anniversaries

Births: George IV (reigned Jan 29, 1820 - June 26, 1830), London, 1762; Robert Southey, Bristol, 1774; Cecil B de Mille, Ashfield, Massachusetts, 1881; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, Nobel laureate 1935, Vienna, 1887; Deaths: William Blake, London, 1827; George Stephenson, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 1848; Sir William Jackson Hooker, botanist, Kew, Surrey, 1865; James Lowell, poet, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1891; Arthur Griffiths, Irish nationalist, Dublin, 1922.

Top films

- 1. Top Gun
- 2. Return of the Jedi
- 3. Superman III
- 4. Mickey Python's The Meaning of Life
- 5. The Untouchables
- 6. Educating Rita
- 7. Heat and Dust
- 8. Footsie
- 9. Raiders of the Lost Ark
- 10. An Officer and a Gentleman

Roads

London and South-east: A413: London-bound lane closures on American Road, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks. M4: Eastbound lane closures at Heston (junctions 3 to 2), and westbound lane closures W of Heathrow (junctions 4 to 5). Wales and West: A470/A489: Temporary lights on M40 to M41 at Mullyd Road at Cwmmaes Road, M4: Lane closures at Junction 32 (Cardiff). A4/A37: Temporary closure system on Bath/Wells Road, Bristol; diversion.

The papers

The Daily Express advises the Home Secretary to ignore warnings against the introduction of a minimum twenty year sentence for certain categories of murder. The abolition of the death penalty was accompanied by reassurances that abolition would not lead to easier treatment for killers, that has been shown to be either a deliberate lie or a ludicrous misapprehension.

Pollen forecast

	Pollen	Peak
Aberdeen	high	3 to 5 pm
Bath	low	-
Belfast	low	-
Birmingham	low	noon to 3 pm
Bristol	low	-
Cardiff	mod	3 to 6 pm
Edinburgh	low	-
Glasgow	low	6 to 9 pm
London	low	-
Manchester	low	noon to 3 pm
Newcastle	low	-
Nottingham	low	-
Sheffield	low	-
Southampton	low	-
Stratford	mod	3 to 6 pm
Swansea	low	-
Wolverhampton	low	-

Lighting-up time

	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	5.00am	8.30pm
Manchester	5.04am	8.30pm
Cardiff	5.10am	8.25pm
Edinburgh	5.16am	8.20pm
Glasgow	5.21am	8.15pm

Weather forecast

The ridge of high pressure over England and Wales will drift slowly S as a weak trough of low pressure crosses S Scotland and N England.

High tides

	Low	High
London Bridge	5.10	7.4
Aberdeen	4.24	6.46
Belfast	4.58	7.10
Birmingham	5.08	7.34
Cardiff	5.20	7.46
Edinburgh	5.26	7.52
Glasgow	5.32	7.58
London	5.38	8.04
Manchester	5.44	8.10
Newcastle	5.50	8.16
Nottingham	5.56	8.22
Sheffield	6.02	8.28
Southampton	6.08	8.34
Stratford	6.14	8.40
Swansea	6.20	8.46
Wolverhampton	6.26	8.52

Around Britain

	Sun Rise	Moon	Cloud
ST Andrews	5.18	22.72	Sunny
Birmingham	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Bristol	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Cardiff	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Edinburgh	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Glasgow	5.12	22.72	Sunny
London	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Manchester	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Newcastle	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Nottingham	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Sheffield	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Southampton	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Stratford	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Swansea	5.12	22.72	Sunny
Wolverhampton	5.12	22.72	Sunny

London

	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	12.0	11	100
Manchester	11.0	10	100
Cardiff	10.0	9	100
Edinburgh	9.0	8	100
Glasgow	8.0	7	100

Letter from Iraq

Boy soldiers behind barbed wire

Each evening as the sun dips behind the sentry towers and barbed wire, Iranian prisoners sit patiently in rows waiting for their meals, the air full of drum music blaring through loudspeakers.

For some of these prisoners of war at Ramadi, 80 miles west of Baghdad on the road to Jordan and Syria, this has become a familiar ritual enacted over nearly three years of captivity.

But for one small boy, who looked no older than 12, although he claimed to be 15, it has its own peculiar problems. He was shot in the right leg a few months ago on the Iranian border and lay unconscious on the battlefield until Iraqi surgeons decided they had to amputate.

Now he hopped awkwardly across a room lined with other children to reach his crutches by the door. Why had he joined the Iranian army? We asked, speaking through Arabic and Farsi interpreters.

"When we knew that Islam needed us, we volunteered", he replied. Did he hope for peace between the two countries? "We hope that Islam will be victorious", he said.

His last reply brought smiles to the faces of Iraqi prison guards, although it was another reminder that there is no end in sight to the seemingly intractable Gulf war in which children bear arms.

John Witherrow

